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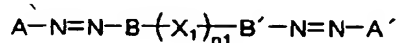
(72) Inventors:

(54) Ink, ink-jet-recording method and bis-azo compound

(57) An ink, which contains at least one dye of formula (1):

Formula (1)

wherein A and A' each independently represent an aryl group or a monovalent heterocyclic group; B and B' each independently represent an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; X₁ represents a divalent linking group; n1 is 0 or 1; and at least one of A, B, A', and B' is a heterocyclic group.



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Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to an ink containing a bis-type azo dye, an ink-jet-recording method using the same, a thermosensitive recording material, a color toner, and a color filter.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] In recent years, in particular, materials for forming a color image have been mainly used as an image-recording material. Specifically, recording materials of ink-jet system, recording materials of thermosensitive (heat-sensitive) transfer system, recording materials of electrophotographic system, silver halide photosensitive materials of transfer system, printing inks, recording pens, and the like, have been used extensively. Color filters are used in image pick-up elements, such as CCD for photographing equipment, and in displays, such as LCD and PDP, to record and reproduce color images.

[0003] In these color image recording materials and color filters, dyes (dyestuffs or pigments) of three primary colors based on a so-called additive color mixing method or subtractive color mixing method are used, to display or record full-color images. A dye, which satisfies conditions that the dye has absorption characteristics that enable the acquisition of a preferred color reproduction range and has (color)fastness against various conditions for use and environmental conditions, is not available yet, and improvement is strongly desired.

[0004] Because of inexpensive material costs, capability of high-speed recording, reduced noise in recording operations, and ease in color recording, ink-jet recording has rapidly come into wide use and is being further developed.

[0005] Ink-jet-recording methods include a continuous method in which droplets are supplied continuously and an on-demand method in which droplets are supplied in response to an image information signal. Ink discharge systems include: 1) one in which droplets are discharged by applying pressure with a piezoelectric element, 2) one in which droplets are discharged by producing air bubbles in ink with heat, 3) one using ultrasonic waves, and 4) one in which droplets are discharged by electrostatic suction. Aqueous ink, oil-based ink, and solid (molten) ink are used as ink-jet-recording ink.

[0006] The properties required for a dye that is used in the ink-jet-recording ink are: good solubility or dispersibility in a solvent; capability of high-density recording; good hue; fastness to light, heat, an active gas in environment (e.g. oxidative gases such as ozone, NO_x, as well as SO_x); excellent fastness to water and chemicals; good fixation and little blur on image-receiving materials; excellent storability as ink; being free from toxicity; high purity; and being available inexpensively. However, it is very difficult to provide a dye that satisfies these requirements on a high level. Particularly, it is strongly desired that a dye should have a good yellow hue, and fastness to light, humidity and heat, and in particular, fastness to an oxidizing gas such as ozone existent in environment when it is printed on an image-receiving material having an ink-receiving layer containing porous white inorganic pigment particles.

[0007] Generally, toners containing a colorant dispersed in resin particles are widely used in color copiers and color laser printers of electrophotographic system. The properties required for the color toners include absorption characteristics that enable the acquisition of a preferred color reproduction range, high transmission (transparency) which becomes a problem in particular, when they are used in an over head projector (hereinafter abbreviated to OHP); and (color)fastness against various factors under environmental conditions when using. Toners containing a pigment as a colorant dispersed in particles are disclosed in JP-A-62-157051 ("JP-A" means unexamined published Japanese patent application), JP-A-62-255956 and JP-A-6-118715. Although these toners have excellent light resistance, they easily aggregate since they are insoluble in a solvent, thereby causing problems such as a reduction in transparency and a change in hue of transmitted color. On the other hand, toners containing a dyestuff as a colorant are disclosed in JP-A-3-276161, JP-A-7-209912 and JP-A-8-123085. These toners have rather high transparency and have no change in hue, but have a problem with light resistance.

[0008] Heat-sensitive transfer recording has advantages, for example, that an apparatus thereof is small in size and can be reduced in production cost, that its operation and maintenance are easy, and that its running cost is low. The properties required for dyes used in thermosensitive transfer recording include absorption characteristics that enable the acquisition of a preferred color reproduction range, compatibility between thermal migration and fixability after transfer, thermal stability, and various types of colorfastness of the obtained image. Conventionally known dyes satisfy not all of these properties. For example, JP-A-60-2398 and the like proposes a heat-sensitive transfer recording material and an image-forming method, which chelate-form a thermally diffusible dye by means of transition metal ions previously added to an image-receiving material, for the purpose of improving fixability and light resistance. However, the formed chelate dye has absorption characteristics at an unsatisfactory level and involves an environmental problem because a transition metal is used.

[0009] Since a color filter needs to have high transparency, a method called a dyeing method, in which the color filter is colored with a dye, has been carried out. For instance, a photoresist which can be dyed is subjected to pattern exposure and development to form a pattern, and then the resulting pattern is dyed with a dyestuff of filter color. Subsequently, these steps are repeated for all the colors of the filter, to produce a color filter. Besides the above dyeing method, a color filter can also be produced by a method using a positive-type resist as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,808,501 and JP-A-6-35182. These methods provide a color filter which has high transmittance due to use of a dye, thereby being excellent in optical characteristics, but which has limitation, for example, to light resistance and heat resistance. Therefore, a dye which has excellent resistance to various factors and high transparency has been desired. Meanwhile, a method of using an organic pigment having excellent light resistance and heat resistance in place of a dyestuff is widely known, but a color filter employing a pigment hardly gives optical properties equivalent to those when employing a dyestuff.

[0010] Dyes for use in the above various applications must have the following properties in common. That is, they must have, for example, absorption characteristics preferred from the viewpoint of color reproduction, colorfastness under environmental conditions when they are used, such as light resistance, heat resistance,

humidity resistance, resistance to an oxidizing gas such as ozone, and satisfactory fastness against chemicals such as a sulfurous acid gas.

[0011] In particular, dyes, which have a good yellow hue and colorfastness against light, moist heat and active gas contained in environment, particularly an oxidizing gas such as ozone, are strongly desired.

[0012] The typical skeleton of a yellow dye used in ink-jet-recording inks is an azo-type.

[0013] Typical examples of the azo dye include an aminopyrazole azo dye and a pyrazolone azo chelate dye disclosed in JP-A-57-5770 and JP-A-58-147470, a pyridone azo dye disclosed in JP-A-6-184481, and stilbene azo dyes and stilbene bis-azo dyes disclosed in JP-A-5-255625 and JP-A-5-331396. In addition, JP-A-2-24191 and JP-A-6-106862 disclose thiadiazolyl-azo-pyrazole dyes for thermal transfer. Further, U.S. Patent No. 6,290,763, JP-A-2001-329194 and JP-A-2002-3766 disclose aryl-aryl-series bis-azo dyes. Furthermore, U.S. Patent No. 4,083,688 discloses hetero-azo-hetero-series bis-azo dyes, but does not describe the use of the bis-azo dyes in an ink.

[0014] These dyes are discolored or faded by oxidizing gases such as nitrogen oxide gas and ozone, which are often discussed as an environmental issue these days, with the result of a reduction in printing density. There are a large number of dyes that are not always satisfactory in terms of light resistance.

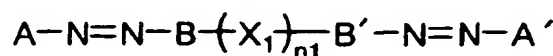
[0015] If the application field of the dyes is expanding and the dyes are widely used in exhibits such as advertisements in the future, it will be often exposed to light, heat, humidity and an active gas contained in environment. Therefore, a dye, which exhibits an excellent hue, and high fastness to light, moist heat, and an active gas in environment (e.g. an oxidizing gas such as NO_x and ozone, as well as SO_x, etc.), and an ink composition of the dye, will be more and more strongly desired.

[0016] However, it is extremely difficult to find an azo dye and a yellow ink, which satisfy these requirements on a high level.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0017] The present invention resides in an ink, which comprises at least one dye represented by formula (1):

Formula (1)



wherein, in formula (1), A and A' each independently represent an aryl group or a monovalent heterocyclic group; B and B' each independently represent an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; X₁ represents a divalent linking group; n₁ is an integer of 0 or 1; and at least one of A, B, A', and B' is a heterocyclic group.

[0018] Further, the present invention resides in an ink-jet-recording method, which comprises the step of forming an image with the above-described ink, on an image-receiving material having an ink-receiving layer containing white inorganic pigment particles on a support.

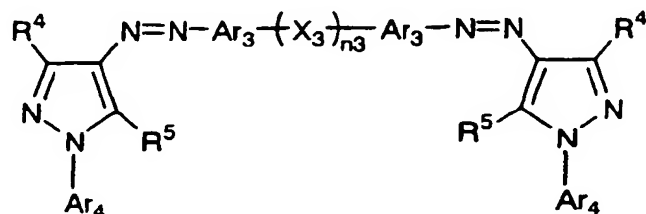
[0019] Further, the present invention resides in an ink sheet, which comprises at least one dye represented by the formula (1).

[0020] Further, the present invention resides in a color toner, which comprises at least one dye represented by the formula (1).

[0021] Further, the present invention resides in a color filter, which comprises at least one dye represented by the formula (1).

[0022] Further, the present invention resides in a bis-azo compound represented by formula (3):

Formula (3)



wherein, in formula (3), R⁴ represents a monovalent group; R⁵ represents a -OR⁶ group or a -NHR⁷ group in which R⁶ and R⁷ each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X₃ represents a divalent linking group;

n_3 is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_3 represents an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; and Ar_4 represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a monovalent triazine ring group.

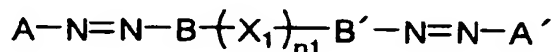
[0023] Other and further features and advantages of the invention will appear more fully from the following description.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0024] According to the present invention, there are provided the following means:

(1) An ink, comprising at least one dye represented by formula (1):

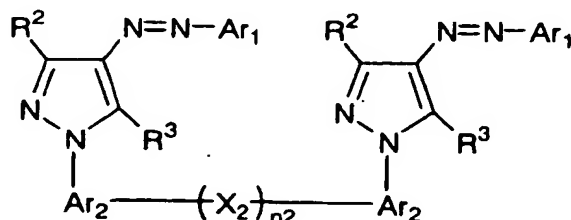
Formula (1)



wherein, in formula (1), A and A' each independently represent an aryl group or a monovalent heterocyclic group; B and B' each independently represent an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; X_1 represents a divalent linking group; n_1 is an integer of 0 or 1; and at least one of A, B, A', and B' is a heterocyclic group.

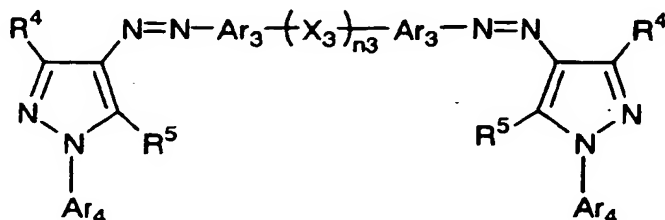
(2) The ink according to the above item (1), wherein the dye represented by formula (1) is a dye represented by formula (2) or (3):

Formula (2)



wherein, in formula (2), R^2 represents a monovalent group; R^3 represents a $-OR^6$ group or a $-NHR^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_2 represents a divalent linking group; n_2 is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_1 represents an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; and Ar_2 represents an alkylene group, an arylene group, or a divalent triazine ring group;

Formula (3)



wherein, in formula (3), R^4 represents a monovalent group; R^5 represents a $-OR^6$ group or a $-NHR^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_3 represents a divalent linking

group; n3 is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar₃ represents an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; and Ar₄ represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a monovalent triazine ring group.

(3) An ink-jet-recording method, comprising the step of: forming an image with the ink of any one of the above item (1) or (2), on an image-receiving material having an ink-receiving layer containing white inorganic pigment particles on a support (base).

(4) An ink sheet, comprising at least one dye represented by the formula (1), (2) or (3).

(5) A color toner, comprising at least one dye represented by the formula (1), (2) or (3).

(6) A color filter, comprising at least one dye represented by the formula (1), (2) or (3).

(7) A bis-azo compound represented by the formula (3).

[0025] The present inventors have keenly studied pyrazolyl azo dye derivatives, for seeking a dye having a good hue and high fastness to light, ozone, and humid and heat. As a result, the inventors have found that the above-mentioned problems in the conventional technique can be solved by using a compound represented by the above formula (1) of a specific dye structure hitherto unknown. Based on this finding, the inventors have completed the present invention.

[0026] The present invention will be described in detail hereinbelow.

(Azo dye)

[0027] An azo dye to be used in the present invention is preferably a bis-azo compound represented by the above formula (1). The formula (1) will be described in detail hereinbelow. In the formula (1), an aryl group or an arylene group represented by A, A', B and B' may be a substituted or unsubstituted aryl or arylene group. The substituted or unsubstituted aryl or arylene group is preferably an aryl or arylene group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the substituent include a halogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aralkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a carboxyl group (which may be in the form of a salt), an alkoxy group, an aryloxy group, a silyloxy group, a heterocyclic oxy group, an acyloxy group, a carbamoyloxy group, an alkoxycarbonyloxy group, an aryloxy carbonyloxy group, an amino group (including an anilino group), an acylamino group, an aminocarbonylamino group, an alkoxycarbonylamino group, an aryloxy carbonylamino group, a sulfamoylamino group, an alkyl or aryl sulfonfylamino group, a mercapto group, an alkyl thio group, an aryl thio group, a heterocyclic thio group, a sulfamoyl group, a sulfo group (which may be in the form of a salt), an alkyl or aryl sulfinyl group, an alkyl or aryl sulfonyl group, an acyl group, an aryloxy carbonyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, an imide group, a phosphino group, a phosphinyl group, a phosphinyloxy group, a phosphinylamino group, and a silyl group.

[0028] The substituent will be described in more detail. Examples of the halogen atom include a chlorine atom, a bromine atom, and an iodine atom. The alkyl group includes a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group. The substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group is preferably an alkyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the substituent are the same as the substituent of the aryl group or the arylene group described above. Out of these, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, a cyano group, a halogen atom, a sulfo group (which may be in the form of a salt), and a carboxyl group (which may be in the form of a salt) are preferred. Examples of the alkyl group include a methyl group, an ethyl group, a butyl group, a t-butyl group, a n-octyl group, an eicosyl group, a 2-chloroethyl group, a hydroxyethyl group, a cyanoethyl group and a 4-sulfobutyl group.

[0029] The cycloalkyl group includes a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group. The substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group is preferably a cycloalkyl group having 5 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the substituent are the same as the substituent of the aryl group or arylene group described above. Examples of the cycloalkyl group include a cyclohexyl group, a cyclopentyl group and a 4-n-dodecylcyclohexyl group.

[0030] The aralkyl group includes a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group. The substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group is preferably an aralkyl group having 7 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the substituent are the same as the substituent of the aryl group or the arylene group described above. Examples of the aralkyl group include a benzyl group and a 2-phenethyl group.

[0031] The alkenyl group is a linear, branched or cyclic, substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group. The alkenyl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the alkenyl group include a vinyl group, an allyl group, a prenyl group, a geranyl group, an oleyl group, a 2-cyclopenten-1-yl group and a 2-cyclohexen-1-yl group.

[0032] The alkynyl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the alkynyl group include an ethynyl group and a propargyl group.

[0033] The aryl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the aryl group include a phenyl group, a p-tolyl group, a naphthyl group, a m-chlorophenyl group and an o-hexadecanoylamino phenyl group.

[0034] The heterocyclic group is preferably a 5-membered or 6-membered, substituted or unsubstituted monovalent group obtained by removing one hydrogen atom from an aromatic or non-aromatic heterocyclic compound, more preferably a 5-membered or 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group having 3 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the heterocyclic group include a 2-furyl group, a 2-thienyl group, a 2-pyrimidinyl group and a 2-benzothiazolyl group.

[0035] The alkoxy group includes a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group. The substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group is preferably an alkoxy group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the substituent are the same

as the substituent of the aryl group or the arylene group described above. Examples of the alkoxy group include a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an isopropoxy group, an n-octyloxy group, a methoxyethoxy group, a hydroxyethoxy group and a 3-carboxypropoxy group.

[0036] The aryloxy group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the aryloxy group include a phenoxy group, a 2-methylphenoxy group, a 4-t-butylphenoxy group, a 3-nitrophenoxy group and a 2-tetradecanoylamino phenoxy group.

[0037] The silyloxy group is preferably a silyloxy group having 3 to 20 carbon atoms. Examples of the silyloxy group include a trimethylsilyloxy group and a t-butyl dimethylsilyloxy group.

[0038] The heterocyclic oxy group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic oxy group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the heterocyclic oxy group include a 1-phenyltetrazole-5-oxy group and a 2-tetrahydropyraniloxy group.

[0039] The acyloxy group is preferably a formyloxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkylcarbonyloxy group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted arylcarbonyloxy group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the acyloxy group include a formyloxy group, an acetyloxy group, a pivaloyloxy group, a stealoxyloxy group, a benzoyloxy group and a p-methoxyphenylcarbonyloxy group.

[0040] The carbamoyloxy group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted carbamoyloxy group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the carbamoyloxy group include an N,N-dimethylcarbamoyloxy group, an N,N-diethylcarbamoyloxy group, a morpholinocarbonyloxy group, an N,N-di-n-octylaminocarbonyloxy group and an N-n-octylcarbamoyloxy group.

[0041] The alkoxycarbonyloxy group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyloxy group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the alkoxycarbonyloxy group include a methoxycarbonyloxy group, an ethoxycarbonyloxy group, a t-butoxycarbonyloxy group and a n-octylcarbonyloxy group.

[0042] The aryloxy carbonyloxy group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy carbonyloxy group having 7 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the aryloxy carbonyloxy group include a phenoxycarbonyloxy group, a p-methoxyphenoxycarbonyloxy group and a p-(n-hexadecyloxy)phenoxycarbonyloxy group.

[0043] The amino group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted alkylamino group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted anilino group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the amino group include an amino group, a methylamino group, a dimethylamino group, an anilino group, an N-methyl-anilino group and a diphenylamino group.

[0044] The acylamino group is preferably a formylamino group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkylcarbonylamino group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted arylcarbonylamino group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the acylamino group include a formylamino group, an acetylamino group, a pivaloylamino group, a lauroylamino group, a benzoylamino group and a 3,4,5-tri-n-octyloxyphenylcarbonylamino group.

[0045] The aminocarbonylamino group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted aminocarbonylamino group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the aminocarbonylamino group include a carbamoylamino group, an N,N-dimethylaminocarbonylamino group, an N,N-diethylaminocarbonylamino group and a morpholinocarbonylamino group.

[0046] The alkoxycarbonylamino group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonylamino group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the alkoxycarbonylamino group include a methoxycarbonylamino group, an ethoxycarbonylamino group, a t-butoxycarbonylamino group, a n-octadecyloxy carbonylamino group and an N-methyl-methoxycarbonylamino group.

[0047] The aryloxy carbonylamino group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy carbonylamino group having 7 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the aryloxy carbonylamino group include a phenoxycarbonylamino group, a p-chlorophenoxycarbonylamino group and a m-(n-octyloxy)phenoxycarbonylamino group.

[0048] The sulfamoylamino group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted sulfamoylamino group having 0 (zero) to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the sulfamoylamino group include a sulfamoylamino group, an N,N-dimethylaminosulfonylamino group and an N-n-octylaminosulfonylamino group.

[0049] The alkyl- or aryl-sulfonylamino group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl sulfonylamino group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl sulfonylamino group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the alkyl- or aryl-sulfonylamino group include a methyl sulfonylamino group, a butylsulfonylamino group, a phenylsulfonylamino group, a 2,3,5-trichlorophenylsulfonylamino group and a p-methylphenylsulfonylamino group.

[0050] The alkylthio group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted alkylthio group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the alkylthio group include a methylthio group, an ethylthio group and a n-hexadecylthio groups.

[0051] The arylthio group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted arylthio group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the arylthio group include a phenylthio group, a p-chlorophenylthio group and a m-methoxyphenylthio group.

[0052] The heterocyclic thio group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic thio group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the heterocyclic thio group include a 2-benzothiazolylthio group and a 1-phenyltetrazol-5-yl-thio group.

[0053] The sulfamoyl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted sulfamoyl group having 0 (zero) to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the sulfamoyl group include an N-ethylsulfamoyl group, an N-(3-dodecyloxypropyl) sulfamoyl group, an N,N-dimethylsulfamoyl group, an N-acetylsulfamoyl group, an N-benzoylsulfamoyl group and an N-(N'-phenylcarbamoyl)sulfamoyl group.

[0054] The alkyl- or aryl-sulfinyl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted alkylsulfinyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted arylsulfinyl group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the alkyl- or aryl-sulfinyl group include a methylsulfinyl group, an ethylsulfinyl group, a phenylsulfinyl group and a p-methylphenylsulfinyl group.

[0055] The alkyl- or aryl-sulfonyl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted alkylsulfonyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted arylsulfonyl group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms.

Examples of the alkyl- or aryl-sulfonyl group include a methylsulfonyl group, an ethylsulfonyl group, a phenylsulfonyl group and a p-methylphenylsulfonyl group.

[0056] The acyl group is preferably a formyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkylcarbonyl group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted arylcarbonyl group having 7 to 30 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic carbonyl group having 4 to 30 carbon atoms in which the carbonyl group is bonded to a carbon atom in the heterocycle moiety. Examples of the acyl group include an acetyl group, a pivaloyl group, a 2-chloroacetyl group, a stearoyl group, a benzoyl group, a p-(n-octyloxy)phenylcarbonyl group, a 2-pyridylcarbonyl group, and a 2-furylcarbonyl group.

[0057] The aryloxy carbonyl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy carbonyl group having 7 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the aryloxy carbonyl group include a phenoxy carbonyl group, an o-chlorophenoxy carbonyl group, a m-nitrophenoxy carbonyl group and a p-(t-butyl)phenoxy carbonyl group.

[0058] The alkoxy carbonyl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy carbonyl group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the alkoxy carbonyl group include a methoxy carbonyl group, an ethoxy carbonyl group, a t-butoxy carbonyl group and a n-octadecyloxy carbonyl group.

[0059] The carbamoyl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted carbamoyl group having 1 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the carbamoyl group include a carbamoyl group, an N-methylcarbamoyl group, an N,N-dimethylcarbamoyl group, an N,N-di-n-octylcarbamoyl group and an N-(methylsulfonyl)carbamoyl group.

[0060] The phosphino group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted phosphino group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the phosphino group include a dimethylphosphino group, a diphenylphosphino group and a methylphenoxyphosphino group.

[0061] The phosphinyl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted phosphinyl group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the phosphinyl group include a phosphinyl group, a dioctyloxyphosphinyl group and a diethoxyphosphinyl group.

[0062] The phosphinyloxy group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted phosphinyloxy group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the phosphinyloxy group include a diphenoxyphosphinyloxy group and a dioctyloxyphosphinyloxy group.

[0063] The phosphinylamino group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted phosphinylamino group having 2 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the phosphinylamino group include a dimethoxyphosphinylamino group and a dimethylaminophosphinylamino group.

[0064] The silyl group is preferably a substituted or unsubstituted silyl group having 3 to 30 carbon atoms. Examples of the silyl group include a trimethylsilyl group, a t-butyl dimethylsilyl group and a phenyl dimethylsilyl group.

[0065] Out of the substituents on the aryl group or the arylene group listed above, a substituent having a hydrogen atom may be substituted by any one of the above groups by removing the hydrogen atom. Examples of the substituent include an alkylcarbonylamino sulfonyl group, an arylcarbonylamino sulfonyl group, an alkylsulfonylamino carbonyl group and an arylsulfonylamino carbonyl group. Specific examples of the substituent include a methylsulfonylamino carbonyl group, a p-methylphenylsulfonylamino carbonyl group, an acetylamino sulfonyl group and a benzoylamino sulfonyl group.

[0066] A monovalent or divalent heterocyclic group represented by A, A', B and B' is preferably a 5- or 6-membered ring, and may be condensed to another ring. The heterocyclic group may be an aromatic heterocycle or non-aromatic heterocycle. In the present invention, the heterocyclic groups are classified into type I and type II. Examples of the heterocyclic group of type I include those known as acidic nuclei, e.g., a 5-pyrazolone ring, a 5-aminopyrazole ring, an oxazolone ring, a barbituric acid ring, a pyridone ring, a rhodanine ring, a pyrazolidine dione ring, a pyrazolopyridone ring, and a Meldrum's acid ring. A 5-pyrazolone ring and a 5-aminopyrazole ring are preferred. Examples of the heterocyclic group of type II include those known as basic nuclei, e.g., pyridine, pyrazine, pyrimidine, pyridazine, triazine, quinoline, isoquinoline, quinazoline, cinnoline, phthalazine, quinoxaline, pyrrole, indole, furan, benzofuran, thiophene, benzothiophene, pyrazole, imidazole, benzimidazole, triazole, oxazole, benzoxazole, thiazole, benzothiazole, isothiazole, benzisothiazole, thiadiazole, isoxazole, benzisoxazole, pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine, imidazolidine and thiazoline. An aromatic heterocyclic group is more preferred. Similarly to the above, preferred examples of the aromatic heterocyclic group include pyridine, pyrazine, pyrimidine, pyridazine, triazine, pyrazole, imidazole, benzimidazole, triazole, thiazole, benzothiazole, isothiazole, benzisothiazole and thiadiazole. Thiadiazole is the most preferred. Each of these may have a substituent. Examples of the substituent are the same as the substituent on the aryl group or the arylene group described above.

[0067] Furthermore, among A, A', B and B', it is preferable that A and A' are identical with each other and also that B and B' are identical with each other. More preferably, each of these pairs is a pair of hetero rings. If both of A and A' and B and B' are hetero rings, it is preferable that one pair of A and A' or B and B' each are a hetero ring of type I, and the other of them each are a hetero ring of type II. It is most preferable that one pair of A and A' or B and B' each are a thiadiazole ring, and the other of them each are a 5-aminopyrazole ring.

[0068] A divalent linking group represented by X₁ in the formula (1) is preferably an alkylene group (e.g., methylene, ethylene, propylene, butylene, and pentylene), an alkenylene group (e.g., ethenylene and propenylene), an alkynylene group (e.g., ethynylene and propynylene), an arylene group (e.g., phenylene and naphthylene), a divalent heterocyclic group (e.g., a 6-chloro-1,3,5-triazin-2,4-diyl group, a pyrimidin-2,4-diyl group, and a quinoxalin-2,3-diyl group), -O-, -CO-, -NR- (in which R represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or an aryl group), -S-, -SO₂-, -SO-, or a combination thereof.

[0069] The alkylene group, the alkenylene group, the alkynylene group, the arylene group, the divalent heterocyclic group, and the alkyl or aryl group represented by R, each may have a substituent. Examples of the substituent are the same as the substituent of the aryl group or arylene group described above. The alkyl group and aryl group represented by R have the same meanings as those described above.

[0070] The divalent linking group is more preferably an alkylene group having 10 or less carbon atoms, an alkenylene group having 10 or less carbon atoms, an alkynylene group having 10 or less carbon atoms, an arylene group having 6 to 10 carbon atoms, a divalent heterocyclic group, -O-, -S-, or any of a combination thereof.

[0071] The total number of carbon atoms in the divalent linking group is preferably 0 to 50, more preferably 0

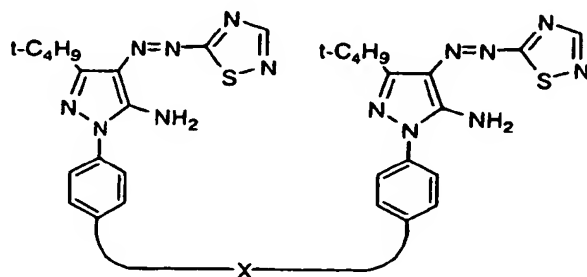
to 30, and most preferably 0 to 10.

[0072] A dye to be used in the present invention is more preferably a bis-azo compound represented by the formula (2) or (3), especially preferably a bis-azo compound represented by the formula (3).

[0073] The formulas (2) and (3) will be described in detail. A monovalent group represented by R , R^4 , R^6 , or R^7 has the same meaning as the above-described substituent of the aryl or arylene group. A divalent linking group represented by X_2 or X_3 has the same meaning as the linking group represented by X_1 in the formula (1). An aryl or arylene group represented by Ar_1 , Ar_2 , Ar_3 , or Ar_4 has the same meaning as the aryl or arylene group in the above on formula (1). A heterocyclic group represented by Ar_1 or Ar_3 has the same meaning as the heterocyclic group of type II described above. An alkyl or alkylene group represented by Ar_2 or Ar_4 has the same meaning as that in the above on the substituent in formula (1) described above. A triazine ring group represented by Ar_2 or Ar_4 may have a monovalent substituent (in which the monovalent substituent has the same meaning as one described above). In formula (2), it is preferable that at least one of Ar_2 and X_2 has a sulfo group (which may be in the form of a salt) or a carboxyl group (which may be in the form of a salt). In formula (3), it is preferable that Ar_4 has a sulfo group (which may be in the form of a salt) or a carboxyl group (which may be in the form of a salt).

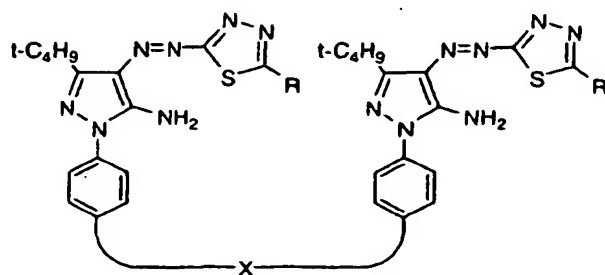
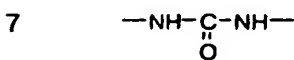
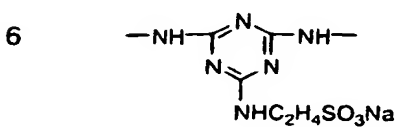
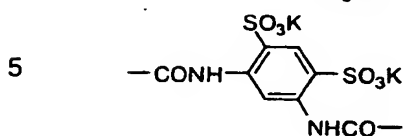
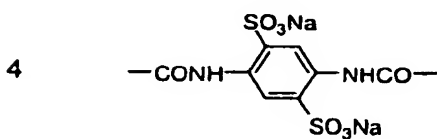
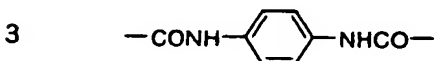
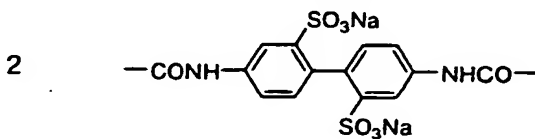
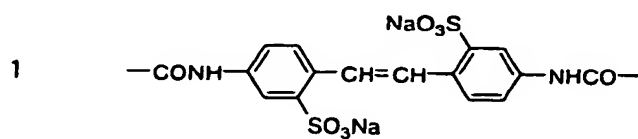
[0074] More preferably, R^3 and R^5 each are an amino group, and Ar_1 and Ar_3 each are a heterocyclic group. Most preferably, Ar_1 is a thiadiazole ring in the formula (2), and Ar_3 is a triadiazole ring in the formula (3).

[0075] Illustrative examples (Exemplified Dyes 1 to 75) of the dye represented by the above formula (1), (2) or (3) are given below, but the dye for use in the present invention is not limited to the following examples. In the following specific examples, Et means an ethyl group, and Ph means a phenyl group.

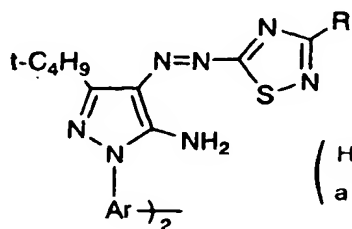


Dye

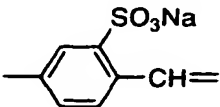
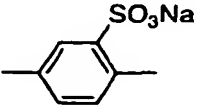
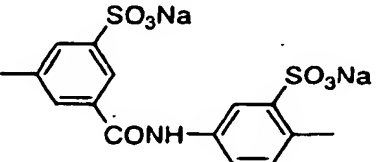

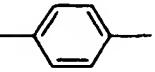
X

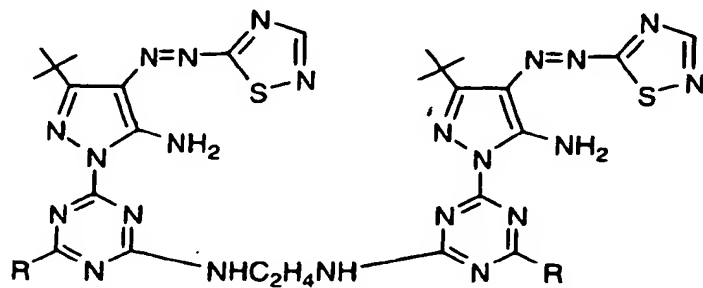


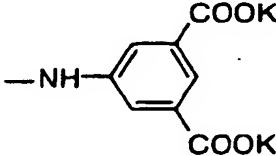
Dye	X	R
8		$-\text{SCH}_3$
9		$-\text{SCH}_2\text{COONa}$
10		$-\text{SC}_8\text{H}_{17-n}$
11		$-\text{SCH}_3$
12		$-\text{SCH}_2\text{COOK}$
13		$-\text{SC}_8\text{H}_{13-n}$

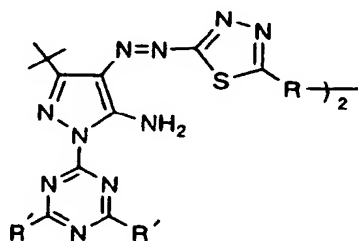


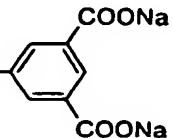
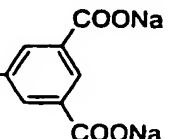
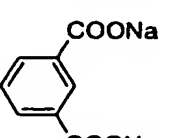
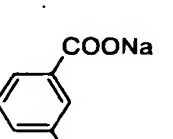
(Hereinafter, " $\text{---}\frac{1}{2}\text{---}$ " means)
a bis structure.

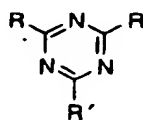
Dye	Ar	R
14		H
15		H
16		-CH ₃
17		Ph
18		-SC ₆ H _{13-n}



Dye	R
19	$-\text{NHC}_2\text{H}_4\text{SO}_3\text{Na}$
20	
21	$-\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{COONa})_2$
22	$-\text{NHC}_4\text{H}_9$
23	$-\text{N}(\text{C}_4\text{H}_9)_2$



Dye	R	R'
24	—S—	—NH— 
25	—SCH ₂ —	—NH— 
26	—CH ₂ —	—NH— 
27	—C ₂ H ₄ —	—NH— 
28	—SCH ₂ —	—NHC ₄ H ₉
29	—SCH ₂ —	—N(C ₄ H ₉) ₂

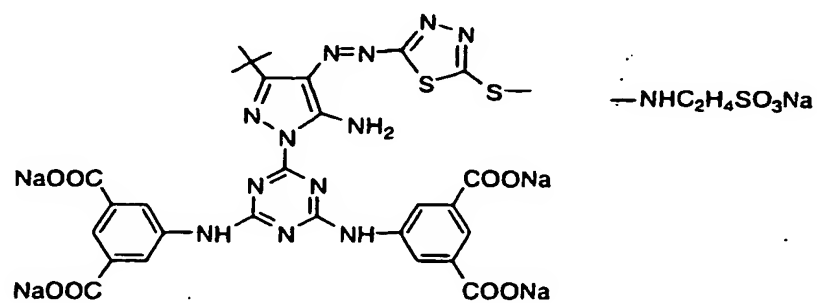


Dye

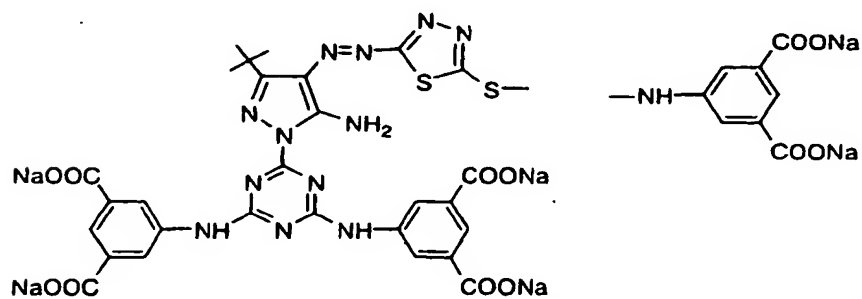
R

R'

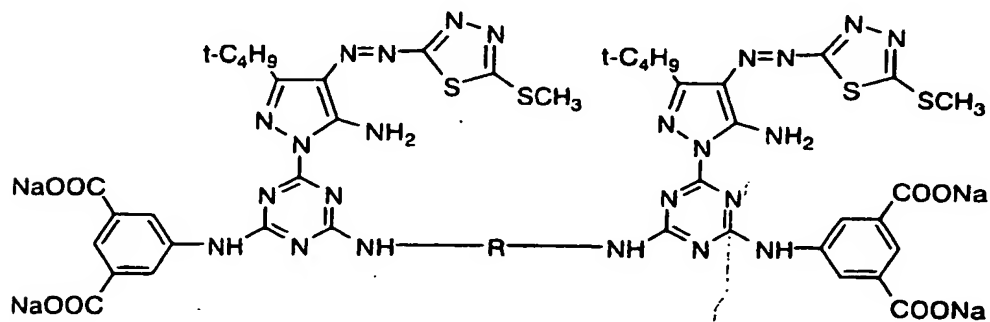
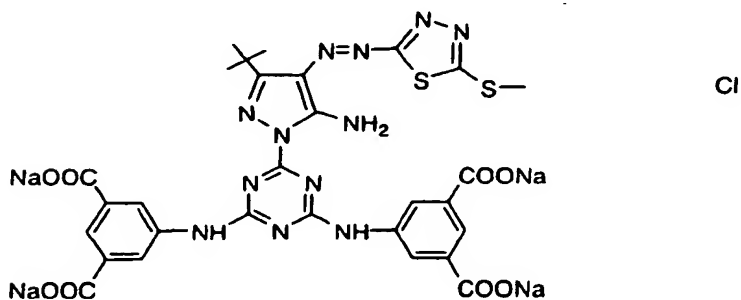
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31



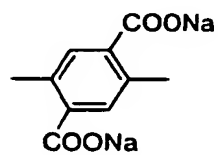
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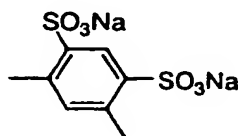
Dye

R

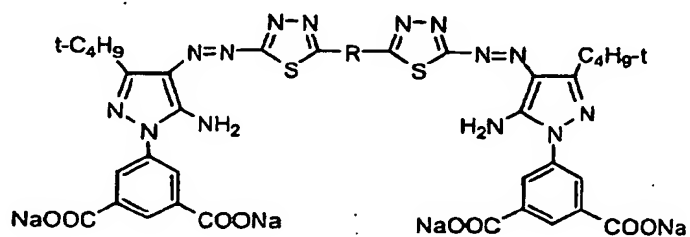
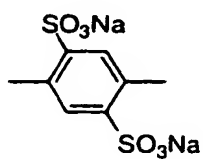
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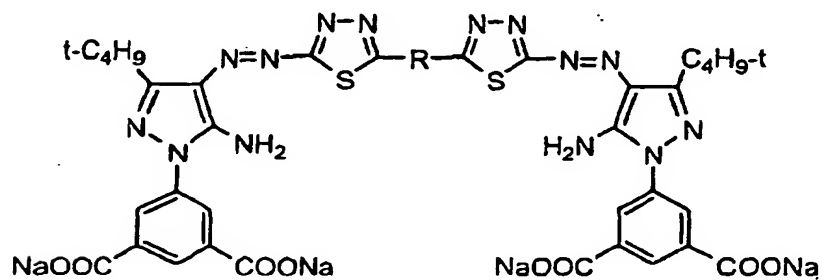
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35



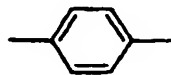
Dye	R
36	$-\text{SCH}_2\text{S}-$
37	$-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$
38	$-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$
39	$-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$
40	$-\text{SCH}_2\overset{\text{CH}_3}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{S}-$
41	$-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\overset{\text{CH}_3}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{S}-$
42	$-\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{OC}_2\text{H}_4\text{S}-$
43	$-\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{OC}_2\text{H}_4\text{OC}_2\text{H}_4\text{S}-$
44	$-\text{SCH}_2\overset{\text{OH}}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$
45	$-\text{SCH}_2\overset{\text{CH}_2\text{OH}}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{S}-$
46	$-\text{SCH}\overset{\text{COONa}}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$
47	$-\text{SCH}\overset{\text{COONa}}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\overset{\text{COONa}}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{S}-$
48	$-\text{SCH}\overset{\text{COONa}}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}-\overset{\text{COONa}}{\underset{ }{\text{CH}}}\text{S}-$



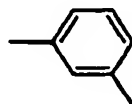
Dye

R

49



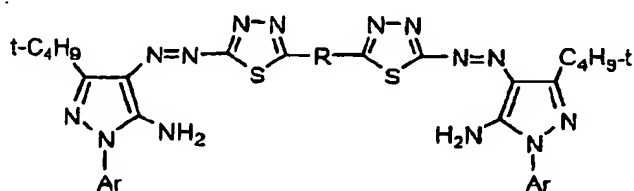
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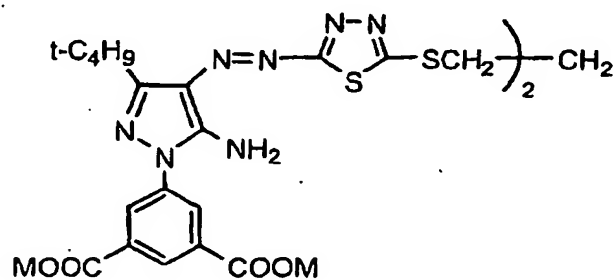
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52

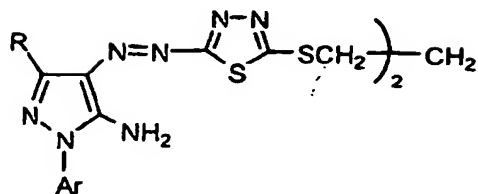


Dye	Ar	R
53		$-\text{SC}_3\text{H}_6\text{S}-$
54		$-\text{SC}_3\text{H}_6\text{S}-$
55		$-\text{SC}_3\text{H}_6\text{S}-$
56		$-\text{SC}_3\text{H}_6\text{S}-$
57		$-\text{SC}_3\text{H}_6\text{S}-$
58		$-\text{SC}_3\text{H}_6\text{S}-$

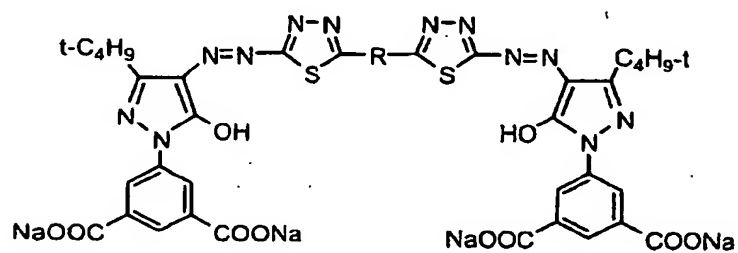


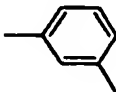
Dye	M
59	K
60	Li
61	NH ₄

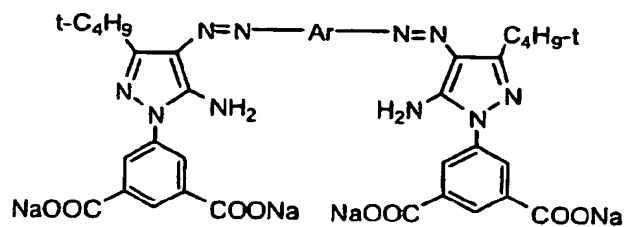
Dye	M
62	HN(Et) ₃


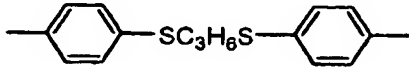
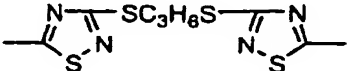


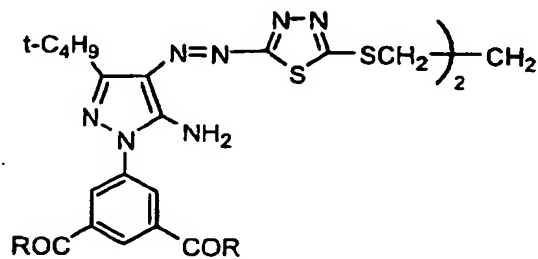
Dye	R	Ar
63	OEt	
64	Ph	
65	t-C ₄ H ₉	C ₃ H ₆ SO ₃ Na



Dye	R
66	$-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$
67	$-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$
68	$-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$
69	

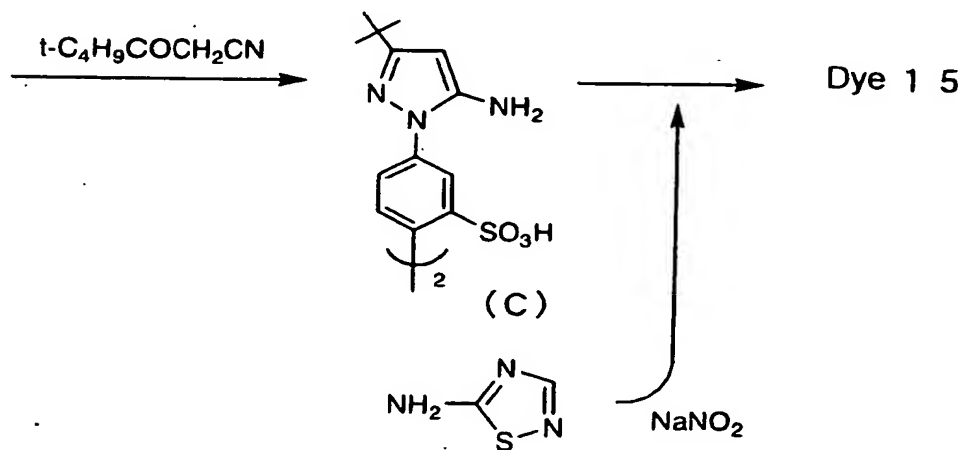
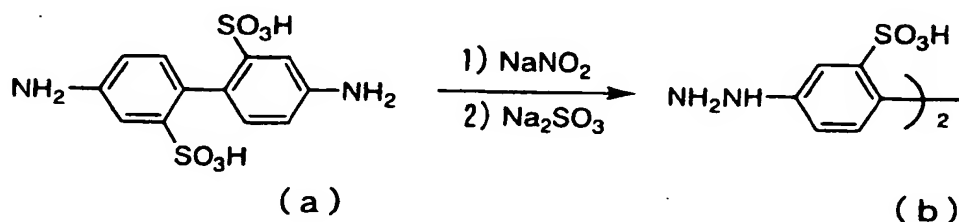


Dye	Ar
70	
71	
72	



Dye	R
73	
74	$\text{NHC}_2\text{H}_4\text{COONa}$
75	

[0076] The dye of the present invention can be synthesized by the following method. As typical examples, the methods of synthesizing Dye 15 and Dye 38 will be described in detail.



(Synthetic Example 1)

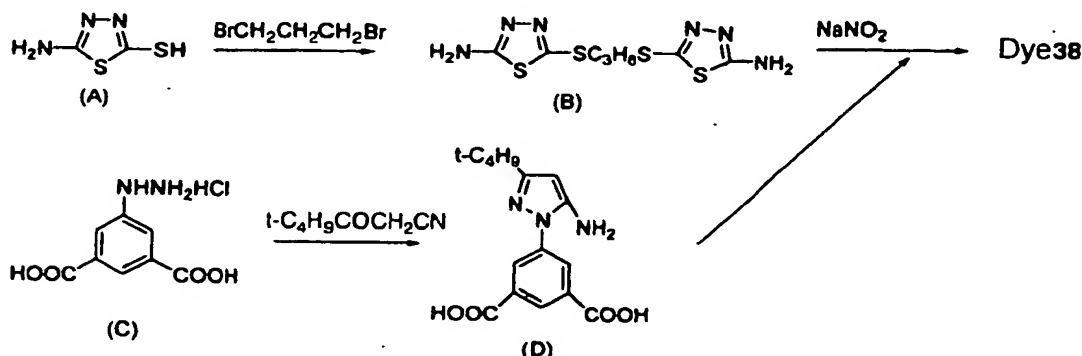
[0077] To 60 mL of an aqueous solution containing 2 g of sodium hydroxide, 17.2 g of Compound (a) was added, and further added 7 g of sodium nitrite. To a mixed solution of 35 mL of concentrated hydrochloric acid and 30 mL of water separately prepared, the above-prepared solution was added dropwise at a temperature of 5°C or less. The resultant mixture was stirred for 30 minutes. Then, the resulting mixture was added dropwise into a mixed solution of 36 g of sodium sulfite and 150 mL of water at 10°C or less. The resultant mixture was stirred for 1 hour at room temperature. Subsequently, 52 mL of concentrated hydrochloric acid was added thereto, and then the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 hour at 80°C. The thus-precipitated crystals were separated by filtration, to

obtain 12.5 g of the Compound (b).

[0078] A solution of 5.7 g of (b), 5 g of pivaloylacetone, 10 g of sodium hydrogencarbonate, 50 mL of water and 50 mL of ethanol was heated for 2 hours, and after adding 12 mL of hydrochloric acid thereto, the resulting mixture was further heated for 2 hours. After concentration, the precipitated crystals were separated by filtration, to obtain 4.7 g of Compound (c).

[0079] A mixed solution of 2.45 g of (c), 12 mL of methanol, 8 mL of acetic acid and 7 g of sodium acetate was cooled to 10°C or less. Separately, using 1 g of 5-amino-1,2,4-thiadiazole, a diazo solution was prepared and added to the above mixed solution at 10°C or less, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. After the precipitated crystals were separated by filtration, 1.44 g of Dye 15 was obtained by column chromatography using Sephadex (trade name).

λ_{\max} 443.8 nm (H₂O), ϵ : 3.94×10^4



(Synthetic Example 2)

[0080] To a mixed solution of 13.3 g of Compound (A) and 100 mL methanol, 10 g of 1,3-dibromopropane and 20 mL of an aqueous solution containing 4.5 g of sodium hydroxide were added, and the resultant mixture was heated under reflux for 2 hours. The thus-precipitated crystals were separated by filtration, to obtain 13 g of Compound (B).

[0081] A solution of 59.8 g of the Compound (C), 32 g of pivaloylacetone, 65 g of sodium hydrogencarbonate, 340 mL of water, and 340 mL of ethanol was heated for 2 hours, and after adding 60 mL of hydrochloric acid thereto, the resulting mixture was further heated for 2 hours. Then, the thus-precipitated crystals were separated by filtration, to obtain 61 g of Compound (D).

[0082] A mixed solution of 6 g of the Compound (D), 80 mL of methanol, and 30 g of sodium acetate was cooled to 10°C or less. Separately, using 3 g of Compound (B), a diazo solution was prepared. The diazo solution was added to the above mixed solution at 10°C or less, and the resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2 hours. After the thus-precipitated crystals were separated by filtration, 4.3 g of Dye 38 was obtained by column chromatography using Sephadex (trade name).

λ_{\max} 431 nm (H₂O), ϵ : 4.17×10^4

[0083] Other dyes can be synthesized in the similar manner. The maximum absorption wavelength λ_{\max} of typical dyes is shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1

Dye No.	λ_{\max} / solvent
1	438 nm / DMF
2	446 nm / DMF
14	441 nm / MeOH
16	441 nm / H ₂ O
19	439 nm / MeOH
Note: "Me" represents a methyl group.	

Table 2

Dye No.	λ_{\max} / H ₂ O
36	427 nm
37	428 nm

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Dye No.	$\lambda_{\text{max}} / \text{H}_2\text{O}$
38	431 nm
39	435 nm
40	427 nm
41	429 nm
42	434 nm
44	429 nm
45	438 nm
50	455 nm
56	441 nm

[0084] As use of the dye of the present invention, can be mentioned image-recording materials for forming an image, particularly a color image. Specifically, the use includes, in addition to ink-jet-system recording materials to be described in detail hereinafter, heat-sensitive recording materials, pressure-sensitive recording materials, recording materials using electrophotographic system, transfer silver halide photosensitive materials, printing inks, recording pens and the like. The use is preferably in ink-jet-system recording materials, heat-sensitive recording materials, and recording materials using electrophotographic system, more preferably in ink-jet recording materials.

[0085] The dye may also be used in color filters for recording and reproducing a color image, which are used in solid image pick-up elements such as CCD and displays such as LCD and PDP, and in dye solutions for dyeing various fibers.

[0086] The dye of the present invention is used after its physical properties such as solubility, dispersibility and thermal mobility are adjusted by a substituent so as to be suitable for its application purpose. The dye of the present invention can be used in a dissolved state, an emulsified and dispersed state, or a solid dispersed state, according to a system to be used.

(Ink)

[0087] The ink of the present invention means an ink comprising at least one kind of the dye of the present invention. The ink of the present invention may contain a medium. When a solvent is used as the medium, the obtained ink is particularly preferable as an ink-jet-recording ink. The ink of the present invention can be prepared by dissolving and/or dispersing the dye of the present invention, in a lipophilic medium or aqueous medium as the medium. An aqueous medium is preferably used. The ink of the present invention includes an ink composition not containing any medium. Other additives may be contained if necessary, within a range not impairing the effect of the present invention. Such other additives include, for example, commonly used or well-known additives in this field such as a drying inhibitor (wetting agent), a fade-inhibitor, an emulsion stabilizer, a permeation accelerator, an ultraviolet absorber, an antiseptic, a mildewproofing agent, a pH adjuster, a surface-tension modifier, an antifoaming agent, a viscosity modifier, a dispersing agent, a dispersion stabilizer, a rust preventive, and a chelating agent. These various additives are directly added to an ink solution in the case of an aqueous ink. When an oil-soluble dye is used as a dispersion, these additives are generally added to the dispersion after preparation of the dispersion of the dye, but these additives may also be added to an oil phase or water phase during the preparation.

[0088] The above drying inhibitor is preferably used to prevent an ink jet nozzle used in ink-jet-recording system from being clogged with the dried ink-jet-recording ink.

[0089] The above drying inhibitor is preferably a water-soluble organic solvent having a lower vapor pressure than water. Specific examples of the drying inhibitor include: polyhydric alcohols typified by ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, diethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, thiodiglycol, dithiodiglycol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, 1,2,6-hexanetriol, acetylene glycol derivatives, glycerin, and trimethylolpropane; lower alkyl ethers of a polyhydric alcohol, such as ethylene glycol monomethyl (or ethyl) ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl (or ethyl) ether, and triethylene glycol monoethyl (or butyl) ether; heterocyclic compounds, such as 2-pyrrolidone, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone, and N-ethylmorpholine; sulfur-containing compounds, such as sulfolane, dimethyl sulfoxide, and 3-sulfolene; polyfunctional compounds, such as diacetone alcohol, and diethanolamine; and urea derivatives. Out of these, polyhydric alcohols such as glycerin and diethylene glycol are preferred. The above drying inhibitors may be used singly or in combination of two or more of these. The drying inhibitor is preferably contained in the ink in an amount of 10 to 50 mass%.

[0090] The above permeation accelerator is preferably used for the purpose of improving permeation of the ink-jet ink into paper. As the above permeation accelerator, use can be made of an alcohol, such as ethanol, isopropanol, butanol, di(tri)ethylene glycol monobutyl ether or 1,2-hexanediol, or a nonionic surfactant, such as sodium laurylsulfate or sodium oleate. In general, the permeation accelerator exhibits a satisfactory effect when it is contained in the ink in an amount of 5 to 30 mass%. The permeation accelerator is preferably used within the range of an amount to be added that does not cause print through or bleeding (blurring) of printed ink or print.

[0091] The above ultraviolet absorber is used to improve the storability of an image. Examples of the ultraviolet absorber that can be used include benzotriazole-based compounds disclosed in JP-A-58-185677, JP-A-61-190537, JP-A-2-782, JP-A-5-197075 and JP-A-9-34057, benzophenone-based compounds disclosed in JP-A-46-2784, JP-A-5-194483 and U.S. Patent No. 3,214,463, cinnamic acid-based compounds disclosed in JP-B-48-30492 ("JP-B" means examined Japanese patent publication), JP-B-56-21141 and JP-A-10-88106, triazine-based compounds disclosed in JP-A-4-298503, JP-A-8-53427, JP-A-8-239368, JP-A-10-182621 and JP-T-8-501291 ("JP-

T" means searched and published International patent application), compounds disclosed in Research Disclosure No. 24239, and compounds which emit fluorescent light by absorbing ultraviolet radiation, namely so-called fluorescent brighteners typified by stilbene-based or benzoxazole-based compounds.

[0092] The above fading-inhibitor is used to improve the storability of an image. As the above fading-inhibitor, use can be made of various kinds of organic or metal complex-based fading-inhibitors. Examples of the organic fading-inhibitor include hydroquinones, alkoxyphenols, dialkoxyphenols, phenols, anilines, amines, indanes, chromans, alkoxyanilines, and heterocyclic compounds. Examples of the metal complex-based fading-inhibitor include nickel complexes and zinc complexes. Specific examples of the fading-inhibitor that can be used include compounds disclosed in patents cited in paragraphs I to J of Chapter VII of Research Disclosure No. 17643, Research Disclosure No. 15162, left column in page 650 of Research Disclosure No. 18716, page 527 of Research Disclosure No. 36544, page 872 of Research Disclosure No. 307105, and Research Disclosure No. 15162; and compounds included in the formulas of typical compounds and compound examples disclosed in pages 127 to 137 of JP-A-62-215272.

[0093] Examples of the mildewproofing agent include sodium dehydroacetate, sodium benzoate, sodium pyridinethion-1-oxide, p-hydroxybenzoic acid ethyl ester, 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one, and salts thereof. The mildewproofing agent is preferably used in the ink in an amount of 0.02 to 1.00 mass%.

[0094] As the above pH adjuster, use can be made of a usual neutralizer (organic base, inorganic alkali). The above pH adjuster is preferably added to ensure that the pH of the ink-jet ink become preferably 6 to 10, more preferably 7 to 10, for the purpose of improving the shelf stability of the ink-jet ink.

[0095] As the above surface-tension modifier, mention can be made of a nonionic, cationic or anionic surfactant. The surface tension of the ink-jet ink of the present invention is preferably 20 to 60 mN/m, more preferably 25 to 45 mN/m. The viscosity of the ink-jet ink of the present invention is preferably 30 mPa · s or less, more preferably 20 mPa · s or less. Examples of the surfactant include: anionic surfactants, such as fatty acid salts, alkyl sulfuric acid ester salts, alkyl benzene sulfonic acid salts, alkyl naphthalene sulfonic acid salts, dialkyl sulfosuccinic acid salts, alkyl phosphoric acid ester salts, naphthalene sulfonic acid formalin condensates, and polyoxyethylene alkyl sulfuric acid ester salts; and nonionic surfactants, such as polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, polyoxyethylene alkylalyl ethers, polyoxyethylene fatty acid esters, sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyoxyethylene alkylamines, glycerin fatty acid esters, and oxyethylene oxypropylene block copolymers. SURFYNOLS (trade name, manufactured by Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.) which is an acetylene-based polyoxyethyleneoxide surfactant can also be preferably used. An amine oxide-type amphoteric surfactant, such as N,N-dimethyl-N-alkylamine oxide, is also preferred. Further, surfactants enumerated in pages (37) to (38) of JP-A-59-157636, and Research Disclosure No. 308119 (1989) may also be used.

[0096] As the above antifoaming agent, use can be made, if necessary, of a fluorine-containing or silicone-based compound, or a chelating agent typified by EDTA.

[0097] In order to disperse the dye of the present invention in an aqueous medium, it is preferred that coloring fine-particles containing the dye and an oil-soluble polymer be dispersed in an aqueous medium, as disclosed in JP-A-11-286637, JP-A-2001-240763, JP-A-2001-262039, and JP-A-2001-247788; or that the dye of the present invention which is dissolved in a high-boiling organic solvent be dispersed in an aqueous medium, as disclosed in JP-A-2001-262018, JP-A-2001-335734, and JP-A-2002-80772. As for the specific method of dispersing the dye of the present invention in an aqueous medium, the oil-soluble polymer, high-boiling organic solvent and additives to be used in the methods, and the amounts to be used thereof, those disclosed in the above patents are preferably adopted. Alternatively, the above azo dye in the solid state may be directly dispersed in the form of fine particles. At the time of dispersing, a dispersing agent or a surfactant may be used. Examples of the dispersing apparatus that can be used include a simple stirrer or impeller, an in-line mixer, a mill (e.g., a colloid mill, a ball mill, a sand mill, an attritor, a roller mill, and an agitator mill), an ultrasonic disperser, and a high-pressure emulsifying disperser (high-pressure homogenizer: gorille homogenizer, microfluidizer, DeBEE 2000, etc., as commercially available apparatuses). In addition to the above patent publications, the details of the methods of preparing the ink-jet recording ink are described in JP-A-5-148436, JP-A-5-295312, JP-A-7-97541, JP-A-7-82515, JP-A-7-118584, JP-A-11-286637, and JP-A-2001-271003. These methods can also be utilized in the preparation of the ink-jet-recording ink of the present invention.

[0098] The aqueous medium described above can be a mixture composed of water as a main component and a water-miscible organic solvent as an optional component. Examples of the water-miscible organic solvent include alcohols (e.g., methanol, ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, isobutanol, sec-butanol, t-butanol, pentanol, hexanol, cyclohexanol and benzylalcohol), polyhydric alcohols (e.g., ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, butylene glycol, hexanediol, pentanediol, glycerin, hexanetriol, and thiodiglycol), glycol derivatives (e.g., ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, propylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monobutyl ether, dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether, triethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol diacetate, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, triethylene glycol monomethyl ether, triethylene glycol monoethyl ether, and ethylene glycol monophenyl ether), amines (e.g., ethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, N-methyldiethanolamine, N-ethyldiethanolamine, morpholine, N-ethylmorpholine, ethylenediamine, diethylenetriamine, triethylenetetramine, polyethylenimine, and tetramethylpropylenediamine), and other polar solvents (e.g., formamide, N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, sulfolane, 2-pyrrolidone, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone, N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone, 2-oxazolidone, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone, acetonitrile, and acetone). These water-miscible organic solvents may be used in combination of two or more of these.

[0099] It is preferable that the dye represented by any of formulas (1) to (3) of the present invention in an amount of 0.2 part by mass or more and 10 parts by mass or less is contained, in 100 parts by mass of the ink of the present invention. The ink of the present invention may contain another dye together with the dye represented by any of formulas (1) to (3) of the present invention. In the case where two kinds or more of dyes are used in combination, it is preferable that the total content of the dyes falls within the above-described range.

[0100] The ink of the present invention can be used not only for the formation of a single-color image but also for the formation of a full-color image. For the formation of a full-color image, a magenta-color tone ink, a cyan-color tone ink, and a yellow-color tone ink can be used. In addition, for the adjustment of colors, a black-color

tone ink may also be used.

[0101] Further, the ink of the present invention may contain a yellow dye besides the dye of the present invention. Any yellow dye may be used. Examples of the yellow dye include: aryl or heterylazo dyes having, for example, any of phenols, naphthols, anilines, heterocyclic compounds such as pyrazolone or pyridone, or open-chain active methylene compounds, as a coupling component (to be referred to as "coupler component" hereinafter); azomethine dyes having, for example, an open-chain active methylene compound as a coupler component; methine dyes, such as benzylidene dyes and monomethine oxonol dyes; quinone-based dyes, such as naphthoquinone dyes and anthraquinone dyes; and other dyes, including quinophthalone dyes, nitro/nitroso dyes, acridine dyes and acridinone dyes.

[0102] Any magenta dye may be used. Examples of the magenta dye include: aryl or heterylazo dyes having, for examples, any of phenols, naphthols or anilines, as a coupler component; azomethine dyes having, for example, any of pyrazolones or pyrazolotriazoles, as a coupler component; methine dyes, such as arylidene dyes, styryl dyes, merocyanine dyes, cyanine dyes or oxonol dyes; carbonium dyes, such as diphenylmethane dyes, triphenylmethane dyes and xanthene dyes; quinone dyes, such as naphthoquinone, anthraquinone and anthrapyridone; and condensation polycyclic dyes, such as dioxazine dyes.

[0103] Any cyan dye may be used. Examples of the cyan dye include: aryl or heterylazo dyes having, for example, any of phenols, naphthols or anilines, as a coupler component; azomethine dyes having, for example, any of phenols, naphthols or heterocyclic compounds such as pyrrolotriazole, as a coupler component; polymethine dyes, such as cyanine dyes, oxonol dyes and merocyanine dyes; carbonium dyes, such as diphenylmethane dyes, triphenylmethane dyes and xanthene dyes; phthalocyanine dyes; anthraquinone dyes; and indigo/thioindigo dyes.

[0104] The above dyes may assume a yellow, magenta or cyan color only after a part of a chromophore therein is dissociated. In this case, a counter cation may be an inorganic cation such as alkali metal or ammonium, an organic cation such as pyridinium or a quaternary ammonium salt, or a polymer cation having any one of these in its partial structure.

[0105] Examples of the black dye that can be used include bisazo dyes, trisazo dyes, tetraazo dyes, and carbon black dispersion.

(Ink-Jet-Recording Method)

[0106] The ink-jet recording method of the present invention comprises applying an energy to the ink of the present invention, thereby allowing to form an image on an arbitrarily image-receiving material. Examples of the image-receiving material include plain paper, resin-coated paper, paper exclusively for ink-jet recording described, for example, in JP-A-8-169172, JP-A-8-27693, JP-A-2-276670, JP-A-7-276789, JP-A-9-323475, JP-A-62-238783, JP-A-10-153989, JP-A-10-217473, JP-A-10-235995, JP-A-10-337947, JP-A-10-217597, and JP-A-10-337947; films, paper for both electrophotography and ink-jet recording, fabrics, glass, metals, and ceramics.

[0107] A polymer latex compound may be additionally used, to provide surface gloss or water resistance or improve weatherability, when an image is formed. The time for adding a latex compound to an image-receiving material may be before or after the addition of a colorant or simultaneous with the addition of a colorant. Therefore, the site for adding the latex compound may be in image-receiving paper or ink. Alternatively, the polymer latex compound may be used alone as a liquid. Specifically, methods disclosed in JP-A-2002-166638, JP-A-2002-121440, JP-A-2002-154201, JP-A-2002-144696, JP-A-2002-80759, and JP-A-2002-187342 can be preferably used.

[0108] The image-receiving material which is to be used for ink-jet printing using the ink of the present invention, for example, the recording paper and recording films, are described below. The supports for use in the recording paper and recording films may be those produced by such an apparatus as a long-screen paper machine and a circular-screen paper machine, and from pulps such as chemical pulps, e.g., LBKP and NBKP, mechanical pulps, e.g., GP, PGW, RMP, TMP, CTMP, CMP, and CGP, waste paper pulp, e.g., DIP, and, if necessary, additives such as conventionally known pigments, binders, sizing agents, fixing agents, cationic agents, and fortifiers for paper strength may be contained. Besides these materials, the support that can be used in the present invention may be a synthetic paper or a plastic film sheet. The thickness of the support is preferably 10 to 250 μm , and the weight is preferably 10 to 250 g/m^2 . An ink-receiving layer and a back coat layer may be formed directly on the support. Alternatively, an ink-receiving layer and a back coat layer may be provided after a size press or anchor coat layer, which is made from starch, polyvinyl alcohol, or the like, is provided on the support. The support may be flattened by means of a calender such as a machine calender, a TG calender, or a soft calender. The support that is preferably used in the present invention is a plastic film or a paper whose both surfaces are laminated with a polyolefin (e.g., polyethylene, polystyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polybutene, or a copolymer thereof). It is preferable that the polyolefin contains a white pigment (e.g., titanium oxide, zinc oxide) or a dye for giving tinge (e.g., cobalt blue, ultramarine blue, neodymium oxide).

[0109] The ink-receiving layer provided on the support generally contains a pigment and an aqueous binder. The pigment is preferably a white pigment, more preferably a white inorganic pigment. Examples of the white pigment include white inorganic pigments, such as calcium carbonate, kaolin, talc, clay, diatomaceous earth, synthetic amorphous silica, aluminum silicate, magnesium silicate, calcium silicate, aluminum hydroxide, alumina, lithopone, zeolite, barium sulfate, calcium sulfate, titanium dioxide, zinc sulfide, and zinc carbonate; and organic pigments, such as a styrene-based pigment, an acryl-based pigment, a urea resin, and a melamine resin. The white pigment to be incorporated in the ink-receiving layer is preferably a porous inorganic pigment. Synthetic amorphous silica or the like having a high proportion of porous area is particularly preferable. The synthetic amorphous silica that can be used may be silicic acid anhydride produced by a dry process or hydrous silicic acid produced by a wet process. The use of hydrous silicic acid is particularly preferable.

[0110] Examples of the aqueous binder to be incorporated in the ink-receiving layer include water-soluble polymers, such as polyvinyl alcohol, silanol-modified polyvinyl alcohol, starch, cationized starch, casein, gelatin, carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyalkylene oxide, and derivatives of polyalkylene oxide; and water-dispersible polymers, such as a styrene/butadiene latex and an acrylic emulsion. These aqueous binders may be used singly or in combination of two or more. Among these aqueous binders, polyvinyl alcohol and silanol-modified polyvinyl alcohol are preferably used in the present invention, from the

standpoint of adhesion to the pigment and peel resistance of the ink-receiving layer.

[0111] In addition to the pigment and aqueous binder, the ink-receiving layer may contain a mordant, a water-proofing agent, a lightfastness enhancer, a surfactant, and other additives.

[0112] It is preferable that the mordant to be incorporated in the ink-receiving layer is immobilized. Accordingly, a polymeric mordant is preferably used.

[0113] The polymeric mordants are described in JP-A-48-28325, JP-A-54-74430, JP-A-54-124726, JP-A-55-22766, JP-A-55-142339, JP-A-60-23850, JP-A-60-23851, JP-A-60-23852, JP-A-60-23853, JP-A-60-57836, JP-A-60-60643, JP-A-60-118834, JP-A-60-122940, JP-A-60-122941, JP-A-60-122942, JP-A-60-235134, and JP-A-1-161236, and U.S. Patent Nos. 2,484,430, 2,548,564, 3,148,061, 3,309,690, 4,115,124, 4,124,386, 4,193,800, 4,273,853, 4,282,305, and 4,450,224. The image-receiving materials containing the polymeric mordants described in JP-A-1-161236, pp.212 to 215, are particularly preferable. The use of the polymeric mordant described in this patent publication makes it possible to obtain an image having excellent quality and to improve the lightfastness of the image.

[0114] The waterproofing agent is effective in increasing the water resistance of an image. The waterproofing agent is particularly preferably a cationic resin. Examples of the cationic resin include polyamide/polyamine/epichlorohydrin, polyethylene imine, polyamine sulfone, dimethyldiallylammonium chloride polymers, cationic polyacrylamide, and colloidal silica. Among these cationic resins, polyamide/polyamine/epichlorohydrin is particularly preferable. The content of the cationic resin is preferably 1 to 15% by mass, particularly preferably 3 to 10% by mass, to the total solid components of the ink-receiving layer.

[0115] Examples of the lightfastness enhancer include zinc sulfate, zinc oxide, hindered amine-based antioxidants, and benzotriazole-based ultraviolet absorbers such as benzophenone. Among these substances, zinc sulfate is particularly preferable.

[0116] The surfactant functions as a coating aid, a peelability-improving agent, a slidability-improving agent, or an antistatic agent. The surfactants are described in JP-A-62-173463 and JP-A-62-183457. An organofluorine compound may be used in place of the surfactant. Preferably, the organofluorine compound is hydrophobic. Examples of the organofluorine compound include a fluorine-containing surfactant, an oily fluorine-containing compound (e.g., fluorine-based oil), and a solid fluorine-containing compound resin (e.g., tetrafluoroethylene resin). The organofluorine compounds are described in JP-B-57-9053 (columns 8 to 17), and JP-A-61-20994 and JP-A-62-135826. Examples of other additives which may be added to the ink-receiving layer include a pigment dispersant, a thickener, a defoaming agent, a dyestuff, a fluorescent brightener, an antiseptic, a pH controlling agent, a matting agent, and a film hardener. The ink-receiving layer may have a single-layer construction or a double-layer construction.

[0117] The recording paper or recording film may have a back coat layer. This layer may contain a white pigment, an aqueous binder, and other components. Examples of the white pigment to be incorporated in the back coat layer include white inorganic pigments, such as light calcium carbonate, heavy calcium carbonate, kaolin, talc, calcium sulfate, barium sulfate, titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, zinc sulfide, zinc carbonate, titanium white, aluminum silicate, diatomaceous earth, calcium silicate, magnesium silicate, synthetic amorphous silica, colloidal silica, colloidal alumina, quasi-boehmite, aluminum hydroxide, alumina, lithopone, zeolite, hydrated halloysite, magnesium carbonate, and magnesium hydroxide; and organic pigments, such as styrene-based plastic pigments, acrylic-based plastic pigments, polyethylenes, microcapsules, urea resins, and melamine resins.

[0118] Examples of the aqueous binder to be incorporated in the back coat layer include water-soluble polymers, such as a styrene/maleic acid salt copolymer, a styrene/acrylic acid salt copolymer, polyvinyl alcohol, silanol-modified polyvinyl alcohol, starch, cationized starch, casein, gelatin, carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, and polyvinylpyrrolidone; and water-dispersible polymers, such as a styrene/butadiene latex and an acrylic emulsion. Other components which may be incorporated in the back coat layer include a defoaming agent, a foaming inhibitor, a dyestuff, a fluorescent brightener, an antiseptic, a water-proofing agent, and the like.

[0119] The layers constituting the ink-jet recording paper or recording film (including a back coat layer) may contain a polymer latex. The polymer latex is used for improvement of film physical properties, such as dimension stabilization, curling prevention, adhesion prevention, and prevention of film cracking. The polymer latices are described in JP-A-62-245258, JP-A-62-131668, and JP-A-62-110066. The incorporation of a polymer latex having a low glass transition temperature (i.e., 40°C or below) in the layer containing a mordant, can prevent cracking and curling of the layer. The incorporation of a polymer latex having a high glass transition temperature in the back coat layer can also prevent curling of the layer.

[0120] The ink-jet recording methods using the ink of the present invention are not particularly limited, and any method can be used. Examples of the method include a charge-controlling method, in which ink is ejected (discharged) by use of electrostatic attraction; a drop-on-demand method (pressure pulse method), in which vibratory pressure of a piezoelectric element is used; an acoustic ink-jet method, in which electric signals are converted into acoustic beams, and the ink is irradiated with the acoustic beams so that the ink is ejected by use of the radiation pressure; and a thermal ink-jet method, in which bubbles are formed by heating the ink, and the pressure thus occurred is used for discharging the ink. Other types of the ink-jet recording method include a method, in which many droplets, each made up of a small volume of a so-called photo-ink having a low concentration, are ejected; a method in which image quality is improved by use of plural kinds of ink each having substantially the same color hue but a different concentration; and a method in which colorless transparent ink is used.

(Color toner)

[0121] Any kinds of binders which are commonly used, may be used as a color toner binder resin for introducing the dye of the present invention. Examples of the binder resin include styrene-based resins, acrylic resins, styrene/acrylic resins and polyester resins.

[0122] Inorganic fine-particles and organic fine-particles may be externally added to the toner, for the purposes of improving fluidity and controlling antistatic properties. Silica fine-particles and titania fine-grains whose surfaces are treated, for example, with a coupling agent containing an alkyl group are preferably used.

Preferably, these fine-particles have a number average primary particle diameter of 10 to 500 nm and are contained in the toner in an amount of 0.1 to 20 mass%.

[0123] Any release agents which have been conventionally used may be used in the present invention. Specific examples of the release agent include olefins, such as low-molecular-weight polypropylenes, low-molecular-weight polyethylenes, and ethylene/propylene copolymers; microcrystalline wax, carnauba wax, sazol wax, and paraffin wax. The release agent is preferably added to the toner in an amount of 1 to 5 mass%.

[0124] The charge-controlling agent may be added if necessary. It is preferable to use an achromatic charge-controlling agent, from the viewpoint of color-forming property. Examples of the charge-controlling agent include those having a quaternary ammonium salt structure or calyx allene structure.

[0125] The carrier to be used may be either an uncoated carrier composed of only magnetic material particles such as iron or ferrite, or a resin-coated carrier obtained by coating the surface of a magnetic material particle with a resin or the like. The average particle diameter of this carrier is preferably 30 to 150 μm in terms of volume average particle diameter.

[0126] The method of forming an image, in which the toner according to the present invention is used, is not particularly limited. Examples of the method include a method in which color images are repeatedly formed on a photosensitive material and then transferred, to form an image; and a method in which images formed on a photosensitive material are transferred to an intermediate transfer material and the like sequentially, and then a color image formed on the intermediate transfer material is transferred to an image-forming member such as paper, to form a color image.

(Heat-sensitive recording (transfer) material)

[0127] The heat-sensitive recording material comprises: an ink sheet prepared by applying the dye of the present invention onto a base (support), together with a binder; and an image-receiving sheet for fixing the dye transferred corresponding to thermal energy given from a thermal head in response to an image-recording signal. The ink sheet can be formed, by dissolving the dye of the present invention in a solvent together with a binder or dispersing the dye in a solvent in the form of fine particles, to prepare an ink solution, and then applying the ink to the base, and optionally drying the resultant base.

[0128] As the preferred binder resin, ink solvent, base, and image-receiving sheet, each of which can be used, those disclosed in JP-A-7-137466 can be preferably used.

[0129] In order to use the above heat-sensitive recording material as a heat-sensitive recording material capable of recording a full-color image, it is preferred that a cyan ink sheet containing a thermally diffusible cyan dye which can form a cyan image, a magenta ink sheet containing a thermally diffusible magenta dye which can form a magenta image, and a yellow ink sheet containing a thermally diffusible yellow dye which can form a yellow image be formed on a base by applying sequentially. In addition to the above ink sheets, an ink sheet containing a black-image-forming substance may be further formed as required.

(Color filter)

[0130] As the method of forming a color filter, can be mentioned a method in which a pattern is formed with a photoresist, and then dyed; and a method in which a pattern is formed with a photoresist containing a dye, as disclosed in JP-A-4-163552, JP-A-4-128703 and JP-A-4-175753. To introduce the dye of the present invention into a color filter, any one of the above methods may be used. Examples of preferred means include, as disclosed in JP-A-4-175753 and JP-A-6-35182, a positive resist composition containing a thermosetting resin, a quinonediazido compound, a crosslinking agent, a dye and a solvent; and a method of forming a color filter which comprises: applying the composition onto a base, subjecting the applied base exposure to light through a mask, subjected the exposed portion to development, to form a positive resist pattern, exposing the entire positive resist pattern to light, and curing the exposed positive resist pattern. Further, a color filter of RGB primary colors or Y. M. C. complementary colors can be obtained, by forming a black matrix in accordance in a usual manner.

[0131] As for the thermosetting resin, quinonediazido compound, crosslinking agent and solvent to be used, and the amounts to be used thereof, those disclosed in the above patent publications can be preferably used.

[0132] According to the present invention, can be provided:

1) a novel compound, which can be preferably used as a dye, and which has absorption characteristics with excellent color reproduction as a dye for any hue of three primary colors, and which has satisfactory colorfastness against light, heat, humidity, and an active gas present in the environment;

2) an ink for printing by such as ink jet, to give a colored image or colored material having excellent hue and colorfastness, an ink sheet for heat-sensitive recording materials, a color toner for electrophotography, a color filter for use in displays such as LCD and PDP and image pick-up elements such as CCD, and various coloring compositions such as a dye solution for dyeing various fibers;

3) in particular, an ink (e.g. an ink for ink-jet-recording), and an ink-jet-recording method, which can form an image having a good hue due to use of the above dye and having high fastness under the various service conditions or environmental conditions, for example, against light, humidity and heat, and an active gas present in the environment, particularly an ozone gas; and

4) a novel dye derivative having a specific structure which can be a useful organic compound or intermediate thereof for use in industrial, agricultural, medical or scientific fields.

[0133] The present invention will be described in more detail based on the following examples, but the present invention is not limited thereto.

EXAMPLES**Example 1**

[0134] Deionized water was added to the following components, to make 1 liter in volume. Then, the resulting mixture was stirred for 1 hour under heating at 30 to 40°C. Thereafter, pH of the mixture was adjusted to 9 with 10 mol/L of KOH, and the obtained solution was vacuum filtered with a microfilter having an average pore diameter of 0.25 µm, to prepare a yellow ink solution.

(Composition of ink solution A)	
Yellow dye 15 of this invention	5 g
Diethylene glycol	20 g
Glycerin	120 g
Diethylene glycol monobutyl ether	230 g
2-Pyrrolidone	80 g
Triethanolamine	17.9 g
Benzotriazole	0.06 g
SURFYNOL TG (trade name)	8.5 g
PROXEL XL2 (trade name, manufactured by Zeneca)	1.8 g

[0135] Ink solutions B and C were prepared in the same manner as in the preparation of the ink solution A, except that the dye was changed as shown in the following Table 3.

[0136] Separately, as ink solutions for comparison, ink solutions 101 and 102 were prepared in the same manner as in the preparation of the ink solution A, except that the dye was replaced with the following dye for comparison A or B, as shown in Table 3, respectively.

[0137] When a different dye was used, such a dye was contained in an equimolar amount to be contained, to the ink solution A.

(Image recording and evaluation)

[0138] The following evaluations were carried out, with respect to the ink-jet inks of the present invention (ink solutions A to C) and Comparative Examples (ink solutions 101 and 102). The results are shown in Table 3.

[0139] In Table 3, the inks for ink-jet were evaluated with respect to "color tone", "paper dependence", "water resistance", "light resistance" and "ozone gas resistance", after an image was recorded on a photo glossy paper ("Gloss" PM photo paper produced by SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION, trade name: KA420PSK, EPSON) with an ink jet printer (manufactured by SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION, trade name: PM-700C).

<Color tone>

[0140] The color tone was evaluated with the naked eye based on three grades of "A" (excellent), "B" (good) and "C" (poor). The value λ_{max} (reflection spectrum) of the PM photo paper is also shown.

<Paper dependence>

[0141] With respect to color tone, comparison was made between the image formed on the photo glossy paper and the image formed on PPC plain paper. If the difference between the two images was small, it was graded as "A" (good), whereas, if the difference between the two images was large, it was graded as "B" (poor). In this way, the difference was evaluated according to the two grades.

<Water Resistance>

[0142] After the image was formed on the photo glossy paper, the paper was dried for one hour at room temperature. After that, the paper was immersed in deionized water for 10 seconds and thereafter left to dry naturally at room temperature. The blur on the paper was inspected. The blur was expressed by the following three ratings: "A", less blur; "B", intermediate extent of blur; and "C", significant blur.

<Light resistance>

[0143] The photo glossy paper having an image formed thereon was irradiated with xenon light (85,000 lx) by means of a weather meter (Atlas C. 165, trade name) for 7 days. Before and after the xenon irradiation, the image densities were measured using a reflection densitometer (X-Rite 310TR, trade name) and the values obtained were used for the calculation of the dye retention (or retained) rate [(image density after xenon irradiation/image density before xenon irradiation) x 100%]. The measurement of reflection density was made at three points of reflection densities, i.e., 1, 1.5, and 2.0 in terms of the image density before the irradiation.

[0144] The dye retention rate was expressed by the following three ratings: "A" indicates that the dye retention rate was 70% or more at all of the densities; "B" indicates that the dye retention rate was less than 70%

at one or two of the densities; and "C" indicates that the dye retention rate was less than 70% at all of the densities.

<Ozone Resistance>

[0145] The photo glossy paper having an image formed thereon was placed in a box provided in dark location, at room temperature, in which the ozone gas concentration was set to 0.5 ± 0.1 ppm, for 7 days. Before and after the exposure to the ozone gas, the image densities were measured using a reflection densitometer (X-Rite 310TR), and the ozone gas resistance was evaluated based on the dye retention rate [(image density after exposure to ozone)/(image density before exposure to ozone) x 100%], in the same manner as evaluation of the above-described light resistance. The measurement was made at three points of reflection densities, i.e., 1, 1.5, and 2.0 in terms of the image density before the exposure to ozone. The ozone gas concentration inside the box was set by means of an ozone gas monitor (Model: OZG-EM-01) manufactured by APPLICIS.

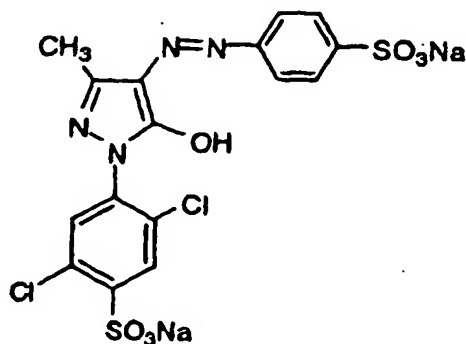
[0146] The ozone gas resistance was expressed by the following three ratings: "A" indicates that the dye retention rate was 70% or more at all of the densities; "B" indicates that the dye retention rate was less than 70% at one or two of the densities; and "C" indicates that the dye retention rate was less than 70% at all of the densities.

Table 3

Ink solution	Dye	Color tone (λ_{\max})	Paper dependence	Water resistance	Light resistance	Ozone resistance
A	15	A (457 nm)	A	A	A	A
B	14	A (455 nm)	A	A	A	A
C	16	A (445 nm)	A	A	A	A
101	Dye A for Comparison	B (423 nm)	B	A	A	C
102	Dye B for Comparison	C (471 nm)	B	B	C	C

Dye for comparison A

[0147]



Dye for comparison B

[0148]



15

20

Example 3

25

30

35



(Preparation of ink solution 103)

[0153] Ink solution 103 was prepared in the same manner as in the preparation of Ink solution D, except that Dye of the present invention was replaced by a dye for comparison in an equimolar amount as shown in the following Table 4.

(Image Recording and evaluation)

[0154] The Ink solution D and Ink solution 103 for comparison were underwent the following evaluations. The results are shown in Table 4.

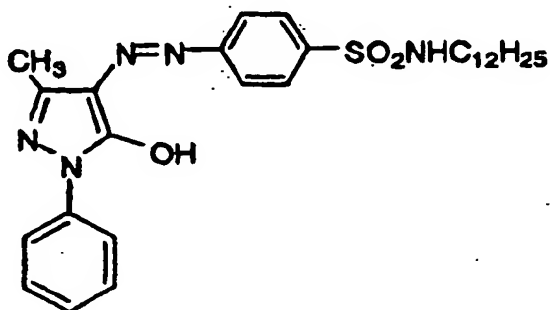
[0155] In Table 4, "color tone (λ_{\max})", "paper dependence", "water resistance", "light resistance" and "ozone gas resistance" have the same meanings under the test conditions and evaluation grades, as described in Example 1, respectively.

Table 4

Ink solution	Dye	Color tone (λ_{\max})	Paper dependence	Water resistance	Light resistance	Ozone resistance
D	18	A (452 nm)	A	A	A	A
103	Dye C for Comparison	B (430 nm)	B	B	C	C

Dye for comparison C

[0156]



[0157] As is apparent from the results in Table 4, the ink of the present invention exhibited excellent color tone, little dependence on paper, and excellent water resistance, light resistance and ozone resistance, as compared with the ink solution for comparison.

Example 5

[0158] An image was printed on an ink jet paper photo glossy paper EX (trade name) manufactured by Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd., using the same ink jet printer as in Example 4 using the same inks as prepared in Example 4, to carry out the same evaluations as in Example 4. The similar results as in Example 4 were obtained.

Example 6

[0159] Each ink solution prepared in Example 4 was loaded into a cartridge of an ink-jet printer BJ-F850 (trade name, manufactured by CANON Inc.). Using the printer and a photo glossy paper GP-301 (trade name) manufactured by CANON Inc., an image was printed. The prints underwent the same evaluations as in Example 4, and the similar results as in Example 4 were obtained.

Example 7

[0160] 3 parts by mass of Dye 7 of the present invention and 100 parts by mass of a toner resin (a styrene/acrylate copolymer; trade name: Himer TB-1000F (manufactured by Sanyo Chemical Industries, Ltd.)), were mixed together and ground by a ball mill, and then the resultant mixture was fusion-mixed together by heating at 150°C, cooled, roughly ground by a hammer mill, and then finely ground by an air jet fine grinder. The obtained fine particles were classified, to select particles as fine as 1 to 20 μm for use as a toner. Then, 10 parts by mass of the toner and 900 parts by mass of carrier iron powders (trade name: EFV250/400, manufactured by Nippon

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Teppun Co., Ltd.) were uniformly mixed together, to prepare Developing agent A.

[0161] Developing agent B was prepared in the same manner as above, except that 6 parts by mass of a dye for comparison was used, as shown in Table 5.

[0162] Reproduction (copying) was carried out by a dry PPC electrophotographic copier (trade name: NP-5000, manufactured by Canon Inc.) using any of these developing agents.

[0163] Evaluation tests were carried out in accordance with the following methods: by forming a reflection image (an image on a paper) and a transmission image (an OHP image), on a paper and an OHP, respectively, by the above-described image-forming method with the Developing agent A or B. The deposition amount of the toner was within the range of 0.7 ± 0.05 (mg/cm²) in evaluation.

[0164] The hue and lightfastness of the thus-obtained images were evaluated.

[0165] The hue was evaluated with the naked eye based on three grades: "excellent", "good" and "poor". The evaluation results are shown in Table 5 below. In Table 5, "o" represents excellent hue, "Δ" represents good hue, and "X" represents poor hue.

[0166] As for lightfastness, after the image density Ci of the image immediately after recording was measured, the image was exposed to xenon light (85,000 lx) for 5 days using a weather meter (Atlas C. 165), and the image density Cf of the image was measured again, to calculate the dye retention rate [(Cf/Ci) x 100%] from the ratio of the image density after exposure to xenon light to the image density before exposure to xenon light, for evaluating. The density of the image was measured using a reflection densitometer (X-Rite310TR). The evaluation results are shown in Table 5 below. In Table 5 below, "o" indicates a dye retention rate of 90% or more, "Δ" indicates a dye retention rate of less than 90% but not less than 80%, and "X" indicates a dye retention rate of less than 80%.

[0167] The transparency of the OHP images was evaluated by the following method. The visible light transmittance of an image was measured, using that of an OHP sheet which did not carry a toner as a reference, by using "330-Type Autographic Spectrophotometer" (trade name) manufactured by Hitachi Ltd., to obtain a spectral transmission factor at 650 nm as an index of the transparency of the OHP image. As evaluation grades, "o" indicates a spectral transmission factor of 80% or more, "Δ" indicates a spectral transmission factor of more than 70% but less than 80%, and "X" indicates a spectral transmission factor of 70% or less. The results of the above measurements are shown in Table 5.

Table 5

Developing agent	Dye	Hue	Lightfastness	Transparency
A	7	o	o	o
B	C. I. Solvent. Yellow 162	Δ	Δ	Δ

[0168] As is apparent from the results in Table 5, since accurate color reproduction and high OHP quality were obtained by using the color toner containing the compound of the present invention as a dye, the color toner containing the compound of the present invention is suitable for use as a full-color toner. As the color toner of the present invention was excellent in light resistance, the color toner of the present invention can provide an image which can be preserved for a long period of time.

Example 8

<Preparation of a thermal transfer dye-providing material>

[0169] A coating composition for a thermal transfer dye-providing layer having the following composition was applied onto a surface of a 6 μm-thick polyethylene terephthalate film (manufactured by Teijin Ltd.) whose back surface had been subjected to heat-resistant lubricating treatment, as a base, by wire-bar coating, to have a dry thickness of 1.5 μm, thereby preparing a thermal transfer dye-providing material (5-1) as an ink sheet.

[0170] Coating composition for thermal transfer dye-providing layer:

Dye 7	10 mmol
Polyvinyl butyral resin (Denka Butyral 5000-A (trade name), manufactured by Denki Kagaku Kogyo K.K)	3 g
Toluene	40 mL
Methyl ethyl ketone	40 mL
Polyisocyanate (TAKENATE D110N (trade name), manufactured by Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd.)	0.2 mL

[0171] A thermal transfer dye-providing material (5-2) for comparison was prepared in the same manner as described above, except that the above Dye 7 was changed to a dye for comparison, as shown in Table 6.

(Preparation of a thermal transfer image-receiving material)

[0172] A coating composition for an image-receiving layer having the following composition was applied to a surface of a 150 μm -thick synthetic paper (YUPO-FPG-150 (trade name) manufactured by Oji Yuka Synthetic Paper Co., Ltd.) as a base, by wire-bar coating, to have a dry thickness of 8 μm , thereby preparing a thermal transfer image-receiving material. The thus-obtained coated film was pre-dried with a drier, and then dried in an oven heated at 100°C for 30 minutes.

Coating composition for an image-receiving layer:

Polyester resin (Vilon-280 (trade name), manufactured by Toyobo Co., Ltd.)	22 g
Polyisocyanate (KP-90, trade name, manufactured by Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc.)	4 g
Amino-modified silicone oil (KF-857 (trade name), manufactured by Shin-Etsu Silicones Co., Ltd.)	0.5 g
Methyl ethyl ketone	85 mL
Toluene	85 mL
Cyclohexanone	15 mL

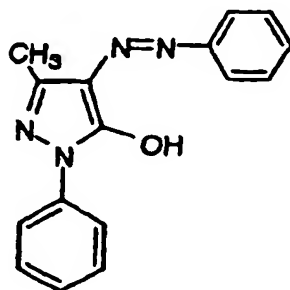
[0173] Any of the thus-obtained thermal transfer dye-providing materials (5-1) and (5-2), and the thermal transfer image-receiving material were placed one upon the other such that the thermal transfer dye-providing layer and the image-receiving layer were brought into contact each other. Then, printing was performed from the support side of the thermal transfer dye-providing material, by using a thermal head, under the conditions of a thermal head output of 0.25 W/dot, a pulse width of 0.15 to 15 msec, and a dot density of 6 dots/mm, to fix, imagewise, a yellow dye on the image-receiving layer of the image-receiving material. The maximum color density of the obtained image is shown in Table 6. A clear image without transfer unevenness could be recorded with the thermal transfer dye-providing material (5-1) according to the present invention. Then, the recorded thermal transfer image-receiving materials thus obtained were irradiated with Xe light (17,000 lx) for 5 days, to investigate the optical stability (fastness to light) of a color image. The status A reflection density after irradiation of a portion which showed a status A reflection density of 1.0 before irradiation was measured, and the stability of the portion was evaluated in a retention rate (percentage) for a reflection density of 1.0 before irradiation. The results are shown in Table 6.

Table 6

Thermal transfer dye-providing material	Dye	Maximum color density	Fastness to light
5-1	7	1.8	91
5-2	Dye d for comparison	1.8	52

Dye d for comparison

[0174]



[0175] As described above, in the case of applying the compound of the present invention to an ink sheet as a dye, the compound of the present invention exhibited excellent fastness to light, as compared with the dye for comparison. Also, the compound of the present invention had a bright hue.

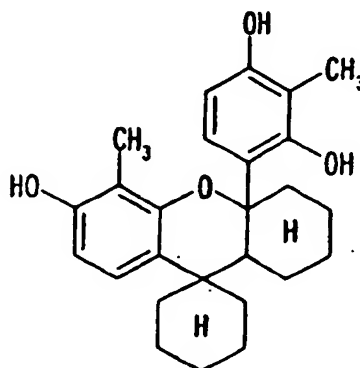
Example 9

[0176] To prepare a color filter, a positive-type resist composition containing a thermosetting resin, a quinonediazido compound, a crosslinking agent, a dye and a solvent was applied to a silicon wafer by spin coating, and the resultant wafer was heated to evaporate the solvent, and then exposed to light through a mask to decompose the quinone diazido compound. The coated wafer was heated if necessary, and subjected to development, to obtain a mosaic pattern. The exposure was carried out using HITACHI LD-5010-i (NA=0.40) (trade

name) i-ray exposure stepper manufactured by Hitachi, Ltd. SOPD or SOPD-B (each trade name) manufactured by Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd. was used as a developer.

<Preparation of positive resist composition>

[0177] 3.4 parts by mass of a cresol novolak resin (mass average molecular weight of 4,300 in terms of polystyrene) obtained from a mixture of m-cresol/p-cresol/formaldehyde (reaction molar ratio = 5/5/7.5), 1.8 parts by mass of o-naphthoquinonediazido-5-sulfonic acid ester (two hydroxyl groups were esterified on average) prepared using a phenol compound represented by the formula below, 0.8 part by mass of hexamethoxymethylolmelamine, 20 parts by mass of ethyl lactate, and 1 part by mass of the dye of the present invention as shown in Table 6 were mixed together, to obtain the positive resist composition.



<Preparation of a color filter>

[0178] After the thus-obtained positive resist composition was applied to a silicon wafer by spin coating, the solvent was evaporated. After the silicon wafer was exposed to light, the silicon wafer was heated at 100°C, and the exposed portion was removed by alkali development, to obtain a positive colored pattern having a resolution of 0.8 μm. The entire surface of the thus-obtained pattern was exposed to light, and then heated at 150°C for 15 minutes, to obtain a yellow complementary color filter A.

[0179] A positive resist composition was obtained, by mixing 1 part by mass of Oleosol Yellow 2G (trade name) manufactured by Sumitomo Chemical Co., Ltd., as a compound for comparison, in place of the yellow dye of the present invention used in the above Example. This positive resist composition was applied to a silicon wafer by spin coating, and then the solvent was evaporated. After the silicon wafer was exposed to light, the resulting silicon wafer was subjected to alkali development, to obtain a positive colored pattern having a resolution of 1 μm. The entire surface of the thus-obtained pattern was exposed to light, and then heated at 150°C for 10 minutes, to obtain a yellow color filter B.

<Evaluation>

[0180] The transmission spectrum of the thus-obtained yellow color filter was measured, to relatively evaluate the definitions (sharpness) on short-wavelength and long-wavelength sides of the spectrum, which are important for color reproduction. "O" means an excellent level, "Δ" means a permissible level, and "X" means an impermissible level. As for lightfastness, the obtained image was irradiation with xenon light (85,000 lx) using a weather meter (Atras C. 165), for 7 days, to measure the density of the image before and after irradiation with the xenon light. Evaluation was carried out using the dye retention (remaining) rate [(image density after irradiation/image density before irradiation) x 100%].

Table 7

Color filter	Dye	Absorption characteristics	Light-fastness
A	7	o	98 %
B	Oleosol Yellow 2G	Δ	60 %

[0181] It is understood that in the case of applying the compound of the present invention to a color filter as a dye, the compound of the present invention was excellent in color reproduction, with sharp definitions on short wavelength and long wavelength sides of the peak in interest of the spectrum, as compared with the compound for comparison. It is also understood that the compound of the present invention had excellent lightfastness, as compared with the compound for comparison.

Example 10

[0182] Ink solutions a, b and c were prepared in the same manner as in Example 1, except that Yellow Dye 15 of the present invention used in Example 1 was replaced by Dye 37 (5.9 g), Dye 38 (6 g), or Dye 40 (6 g) of the present invention, to carry out the same evaluations as in Example 1. The results are shown in Table 8.

Table 8

Sample No.	Dye	Color tone (λ_{\max})	Paper dependence	Water resistance	Light resistance	Ozone resistance
a	37	A (446 nm)	A	A	A	A
b	38	A (446 nm)	A	A	A	A
c	40	A (443 nm)	A	A	A	A
101	Dye A for Comparison	B (423 nm)	B	A	A	C
102	Dye B for Comparison	4 C (471 nm)	B	B	C	C

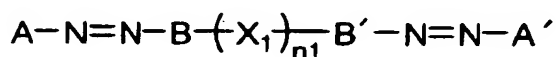
[0183] As can be seen from the results in Table 8, the ink-jet inks of the present invention exhibited excellent color tone, little dependence on paper, and excellent water resistance, light resistance and ozone resistance. In particular, it is apparent that the inks of the present invention were excellent in image storability, such as light resistance and ozone resistance.

[0184] Having described our invention as related to the present embodiments, it is our intention that the invention not be limited by any of the details of the description, unless otherwise specified, but rather be construed broadly within its spirit and scope as set out in the accompanying claims.

Claims

1. An ink, comprising at least one dye represented by formula (1):

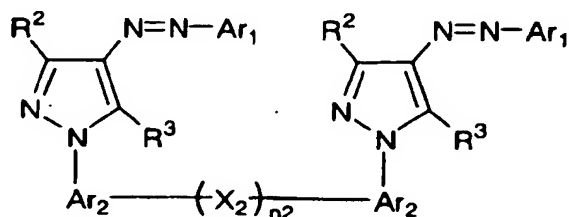
Formula (1)



wherein, in formula (1), A and A' each independently represent an aryl group or a monovalent heterocyclic group; B and B' each independently represent an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; X_1 represents a divalent linking group; $n1$ is an integer of 0 or 1; and at least one of A, B, A', and B' is a heterocyclic group.

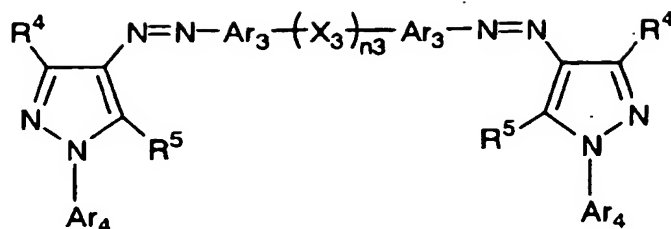
2. The ink according to Claim 1, wherein the dye represented by formula (1) is a dye represented by formula (2) or (3):

Formula (2)



wherein, in formula (2), R^2 represents a monovalent group; R^3 represents a $-OR^6$ group or a $-NHR^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_2 represents a divalent linking group; $n2$ is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_1 represents an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; and Ar_2 represents an alkylene group, an arylene group, or a divalent triazine ring group;

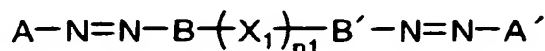
Formula (3)



wherein, in formula (3), R^4 represents a monovalent group; R^5 represents a $-\text{OR}^6$ group or a $-\text{NHR}^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_3 represents a divalent linking group; n_3 is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_3 represents an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; and Ar_4 represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a monovalent triazine ring group.

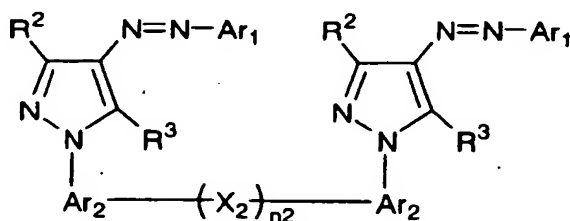
3. An ink-jet-recording method, comprising the step of: forming an image with the ink according to Claim 1 or 2, on an image-receiving material having an ink-receiving layer containing white inorganic pigment particles on a support.
4. An ink sheet, comprising at least one dye represented by formula (1), (2) or (3):

Formula (1)



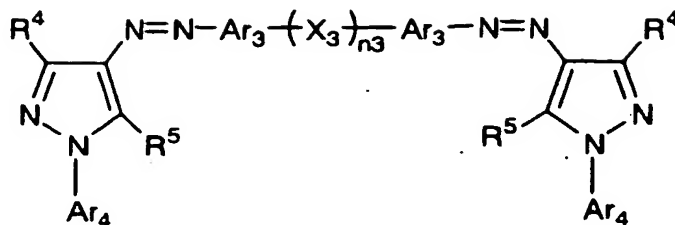
wherein, in formula (1), A and A' each independently represent an aryl group or a monovalent heterocyclic group; B and B' each independently represent an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; X_1 represents a divalent linking group; n_1 is an integer of 0 or 1; and at least one of A, B, A', and B' is a heterocyclic group;

Formula (2)



wherein, in formula (2), R^2 represents a monovalent group; R^3 represents a $-\text{OR}^6$ group or a $-\text{NHR}^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_2 represents a divalent linking group; n_2 is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_1 represents an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; and Ar_2 represents an alkylene group, an arylene group, or a divalent triazine ring group;

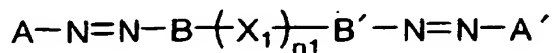
Formula (3)



wherein, in formula (3), R^4 represents a monovalent group; R^5 represents a $-OR^6$ group or a $-NHR^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_3 represents a divalent linking group; $n3$ is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_3 represents an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; and Ar_4 represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a monovalent triazine ring group.

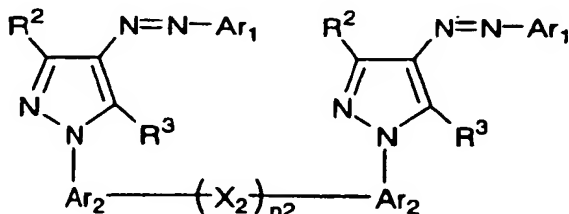
5. A color toner, comprising at least one dye represented by formula (1), (2) or (3):

Formula (1)



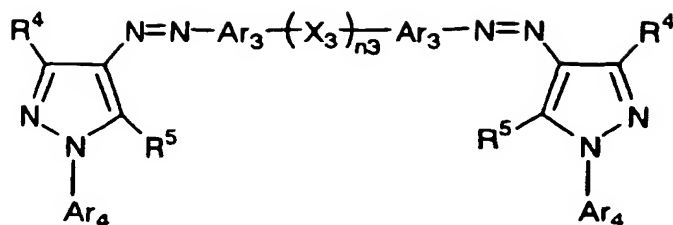
wherein, in formula (1), A and A' each independently represent an aryl group or a monovalent heterocyclic group; B and B' each independently represent an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; X_1 represents a divalent linking group; $n1$ is an integer of 0 or 1; and at least one of A, B, A', and B' is a heterocyclic group;

Formula (2)



wherein, in formula (2), R^2 represents a monovalent group; R^3 represents a $-OR^6$ group or a $-NHR^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_2 represents a divalent linking group; $n2$ is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_1 represents an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; and Ar_2 represents an alkylene group, an arylene group, or a divalent triazine ring group;

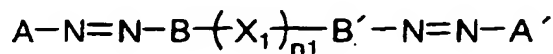
Formula (3)



wherein, in formula (3), R^4 represents a monovalent group; R^5 represents a $-\text{OR}^6$ group or a $-\text{NHR}^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_3 represents a divalent linking group; $n3$ is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_3 represents an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; and Ar_4 represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a monovalent triazine ring group.

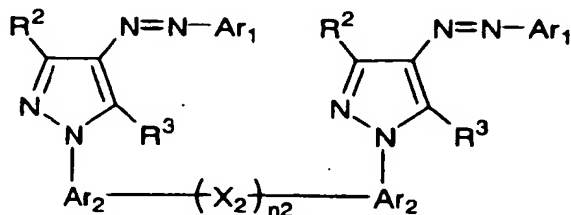
6. A color filter, comprising at least one dye represented by formula (1), (2) or (3):

Formula (1)



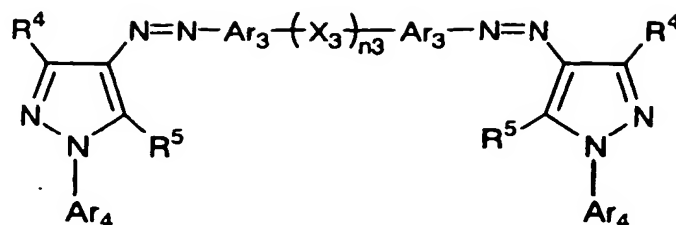
wherein, in formula (1), A and A' each independently represent an aryl group or a monovalent heterocyclic group; B and B' each independently represent an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; X_1 represents a divalent linking group; $n1$ is an integer of 0 or 1; and at least one of A, B, A', and B' is a heterocyclic group;

Formula (2)



wherein, in formula (2), R^2 represents a monovalent group; R^3 represents a $-\text{OR}^6$ group or a $-\text{NHR}^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_2 represents a divalent linking group; $n2$ is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_1 represents an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; and Ar_2 represents an alkylene group, an arylene group, or a divalent triazine ring group;

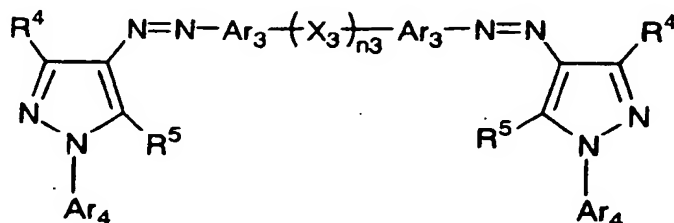
Formula (3)



wherein, in formula (3), R^4 represents a monovalent group; R^5 represents a $-\text{OR}^6$ group or a $=\text{NHR}^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_3 represents a divalent linking group; $n3$ is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_3 represents an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; and Ar_4 represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a monovalent triazine ring group.

7. A bis-azo compound represented by formula (3):

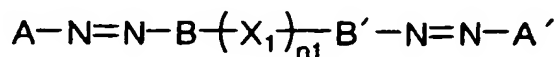
Formula (3)



wherein, in formula (3), R^4 represents a monovalent group; R^5 represents a $-\text{OR}^6$ group or a $=\text{NHR}^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_3 represents a divalent linking group; $n3$ is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_3 represents an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; and Ar_4 represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a monovalent triazine ring group.

8. The use of a bis-azo compound represented by formula (1), in an ink-jet ink:

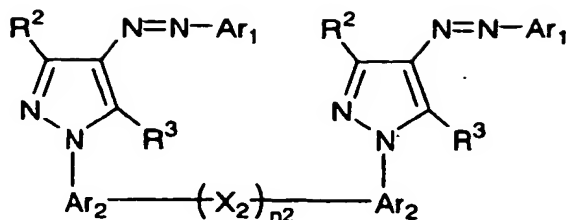
Formula (1)



wherein, in formula (1), A and A' each independently represent an aryl group or a monovalent heterocyclic group; B and B' each independently represent an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; X_1 represents a divalent linking group; $n1$ is an integer of 0 or 1; and at least one of A, B, A', and B' is a heterocyclic group.

9. The use of a bis-azo compound represented by formula (2), in an ink-jet ink:

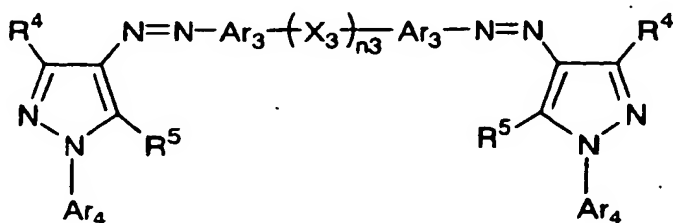
Formula (2)



wherein, in formula (2), R^2 represents a monovalent group; R^3 represents a $-OR^6$ group or a $-NHR^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_2 represents a divalent linking group; n_2 is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_1 represents an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; and Ar_2 represents an alkylene group, an arylene group, or a divalent triazine ring group.

10. The use of a bis-azo compound represented by formula (3), in an ink-jet ink:

Formula (3)



wherein, in formula (3), R^4 represents a monovalent group; R^5 represents a $-OR^6$ group or a $-NHR^7$ group in which R^6 and R^7 each represent a hydrogen atom or a monovalent group; X_3 represents a divalent linking group; n_3 is an integer of 0 or 1; Ar_3 represents an arylene group or a divalent heterocyclic group; and Ar_4 represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a monovalent triazine ring group.